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2021 EDITION

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COVER: THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD  
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CARDIFF UNIVERSITY;  
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRADFORD

# THE UK WAS ONE OF THE FIRST COUNTRIES *to respond to the educational challenges posed by Covid-19* BY INTRODUCING COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION FLEXIBILITY



**I**t's a real pleasure to be asked to write the Foreword for the second edition of *Great British Education*. This publication plays a wonderful role in helping promote the strength and quality of the UK education sector to prospective parents and students overseas.

Since the publication of last year's edition, I'm delighted to have been appointed as the UK government's International Education Champion. As Champion, I will be supporting the implementation of the International Education Strategy, jointly published by the Department for International Trade and Department for Education. This strategy sets out steps to achieve our ambitions of increasing education exports to £35bn by 2030, and to increase the number of international students hosted in the UK by 600,000 in the same time period.

While my background is in higher education, I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to promote the whole of the UK's education offer, including educational technology, technical vocational education and training, English language training, schools and early years. Like higher education, the UK's expertise in these education sub-sectors is world leading.

2020 was far from easy, including for many of us in the education sector. The UK was one of the first countries to respond to the educational challenges posed by Covid-19 by introducing comprehensive immigration flexibility. Furthermore, the recent introduction of the Student Route and Graduate Route means we have a world-class student visa offer befitting our world-class higher-education sector.

I'm extremely proud of the resilience and agility that the UK education sector has demonstrated in recent months. For example, British Educational Suppliers Association (BESA) EdTech members provided £36m of free resources to educational institutions and governments globally, from March to June last year.

The Boarding Schools' Association has introduced a Covid-safe charter and BSA helped arrange chartered flights to bring students to the UK, ensuring students were welcomed and well looked-after upon arrival. And from vocational colleges to universities and English language training centres, we're seeing innovative examples of high quality online and blended learning for both domestic and international students.

I'm delighted to support *Great British Education* in its endeavours. I do hope that this magazine continues to inspire young people to invest in their future and make lifelong friends by studying in the UK.

**PROFESSOR SIR STEVE SMITH**

**UK GOVERNMENT'S INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION CHAMPION,  
FORMERLY VICE CHANCELLOR, EXETER UNIVERSITY**

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Meet the experts of the Independent School Parent portfolio  
sharing their years of invaluable educational experience



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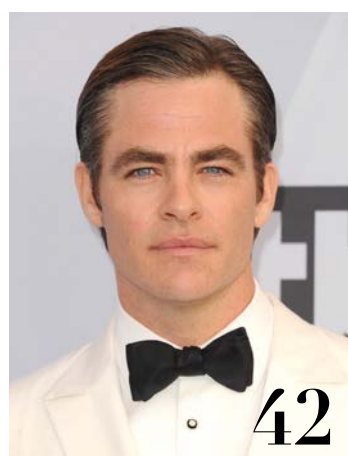
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has been Headmistress at Newton Prep, Battersea since 2013. She began her teaching career in state schools, where she learned her 'craft'.





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**GreatBritishEducationMag.com**

A complete directory of UK independent schools, universities and British international schools is available online





**Cambridge University  
offers both heritage  
and an idyllic setting**






# A VERY BRITISH EDUCATION

WITH GLOBALLY-RESPECTED SCHOOLS,  
WORLD-LEADING UNIVERSITIES  
AND INTERNATIONAL NETWORKING  
OPPORTUNITIES, THERE'S MUCH TO  
RECOMMEND STUDYING IN THE UK

Words: *Leo Winkley*  
*Headmaster of Shrewsbury School, Shropshire*





**T**o the first-time observer of a map of the world, Great Britain may look like a rather modest collection of islands off the north-west coast of mainland Europe. Yet, appearances can be deceptive: these are islands that have led the world. And continue to do so. What Great Britain lacks in square kilometres, it more than makes up for in tradition, history, culture and global influence. It's a nation of stunning and varied scenery, ancient buildings and monuments. Its vibrant, dynamic cities are balanced by the idyllic countryside of its 'green and pleasant land'.

Great Britain exerts a profound and wide-ranging influence on the world. With a long track record of producing game-changing ideas across the field of human learning, its captains of industry, scientists and innovators are prized and respected. Great Britain has a go-forward attitude that is founded on the confidence of the ages but that retains a spirit of invention epitomised by some of the great thinkers to have sprung from these islands: Charles Darwin, Isaac Newton and William Shakespeare to name just a few.

### An island nation

The United Kingdom – also known as the UK, Great Britain and Britain – is a sovereign state made up of four nations – England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, as well as the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II is the longest-reigning monarch of the United Kingdom. To the British, the Queen is an icon of decency, loyalty, tradition and truthfulness. The pageantry of the monarchy provides visual splendour to grace the country's solid ground of history and identity.

Her Majesty once observed that:

"The true measure of all our actions is how long the good in them lasts... everything we do, we do for the young."

### Welcoming, safe and multicultural

No nation can claim to have created a utopia: every nation lives with a range of local and global challenges. Crime levels in the UK are low and it is a very safe place to live. It's a nation that celebrates individuals and embraces diversity. Britain can justly be proud of the settled multiculturalism that abides in the UK. It has a rich culture, with strong local and regional identities allied under the flag of the Union Jack. The UK's colonial history

FOR CENTURIES, A GREAT BRITISH EDUCATION *has been admired as setting the gold standard of excellence.* IT REACHES FROM EARLY MONASTIC COMMUNITIES INTO MODERN TIMES

### 21st century Britain

This deep truth captures the spirit of a nation that places a very high value on educating the next generation. A nation whose history, buildings and institutions stretch far back into the distant mists of time, Great Britain's eyes are nonetheless fixed firmly on a future of innovation and collaboration.

The UK is still a major political and economic force, with membership in the G8 and an economy that is the fifth largest in the world and second largest in Europe. Democracies around the world owe much to the political systems that evolved in Britain. The 'mother' of parliaments is based in the Palace of Westminster, under the watchful presence of Big Ben. British Prime Ministers – famous or notorious – are known around the globe and the view from London is one that is sought and respected by international leaders.

prompts justified soul-searching, but also means that the nation has benefited from a vivid range of international influences, helping to create the multicultural society that exists today. There's also a strong sense of regional identity, a pride of place, which fuels a strong sense of belonging. The rivalry between football teams; the extraordinary variation of dialects and accents; the local customs and traditions – these are fuelled by loyalty and community spirit that gives each part of the UK its own distinctive personality.

### The individual child

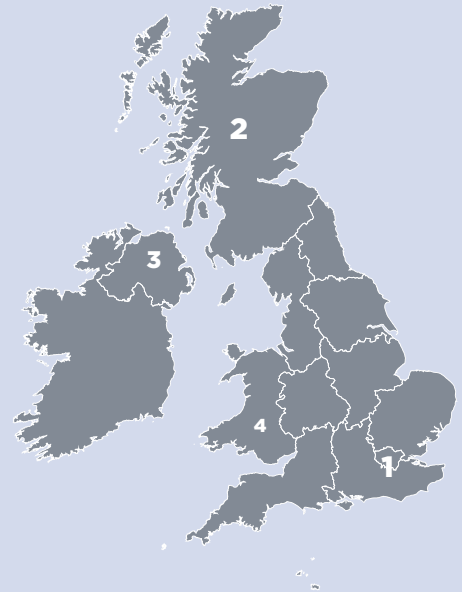
For centuries, a Great British education has been admired as setting the global gold standard for excellence. It reaches from the early monastic communities of the sixth century CE, to the founding of the first universities in the middle ages, to the arrival of charitable schools under Royal Charter in the time of Shakespeare, through to the Victorian age and into modern times. A long and gradual process of change and evolution ►

PHOTOGRAPHY: SHUTTERSTOCK.COM/CHRISDORNEY



# THE UNITED KINGDOM

This island nation comprises four nations.  
Use our map to get your bearings



1 England. 2 Scotland. 3 Northern Ireland.  
4 Wales.



Shrewsbury School in  
Shropshire is where  
naturalist Charles  
Darwin discovered his  
passion for science



has always had scholarship at its heart. The distinguished reputation of a British education is founded on the cornerstones of academic rigour, intellectual curiosity and freedom of expression. In an age where opinion and fact are too often muddled, the British education system stands firmly grounded in the noble pursuit of learning and truth.

## Academic rigour and pastoral care

British schools are celebrated for their academic results and individualised pastoral care; and its universities lead ground-breaking research and provide challenges for hundreds of thousands of students. Steeped in heritage, this education fosters innovation and creativity, placing the individual at the heart of all things.

International students flock to the UK to study for a number of well-tested reasons. The climate of intellectual freedom; the global network of connections; the ease of movement between such diverse stimulating centres of learning; the warm and friendly welcome. Above all, they're drawn by the vast wealth of opportunities that spring from a British education.

## Outstanding teaching

In the UK, schools are either state schools funded by government and are free for all, or they're independent schools and charge fees to the parents of the pupils. There are some outstanding state schools across the country that provide exceptional teaching and care. Independent schools have an excellent reputation for high standards of teaching and learning and almost all pupils go on to prestigious universities when they leave. Pastoral care and attending to the mental and physical wellbeing of children is given a very high priority. Independent schools are able to give much more time for activities outside the classroom and have a reputation for excellence in sport, music, performing arts, outdoor education, community service and volunteering. Teachers in independent schools will know the pupils in the classroom and also engage with them in co-curricular activities and through house systems, where pupils are grouped for pastoral care and friendly inter-house competition.

## A school for every child

There is a fantastic, and potentially bewildering, variety of schools: day schools; boarding schools; co-educational or single gender; all through

(from ages three to 18) or schools that specialise in separate phases such as nursery schools, primary schools, secondary schools and sixth form colleges. Some schools offer boarding – these will vary between those where boarding is the main culture of the school or those where day pupils are in the majority. There are some variations between the systems in England and Wales and the curriculum in Scotland.

## Examinations and qualifications

This is true, for example, in the case of the examination system.

Scotland has its own system; in England and Wales, pupils will typically take examinations at age 16 in a range of around 10 to 12 academic subjects, some core, some chosen, called GCSEs. Some independent schools offer alternative courses at this stage. In the sixth form, most pupils will choose to specialise in three (or sometimes more) subjects and take A-level examinations at the age of 18. These provide the passports for university entrance. Some schools offer the International Baccalaureate which retains greater breadth at this level.

## Universities and careers

Great British schools have a track record of launching young people into a dazzling array of universities and careers. The Universities of Oxford and Cambridge are global beacons of academic learning, with other leading institutions such as the London School of Economics and Political Science, Imperial College London and the University of Edinburgh also ranked in the highest echelon globally. That said, depending on the specific area of study, there's a wealth of courses within the UK's university system and the ranking of individual courses is more and more detailed. Many will also look further afield to Europe and beyond.

## Broadening horizons

With English being the leading language for learning, trade, diplomacy and travel, the

experience of studying and living in the UK as a child is invaluable. Echoing the ideas of Charles Darwin, one of the most well-known former pupils of Shrewsbury School, where I'm Headmaster, the process of evolution from child to adult is as complex as it is exciting. The best of British schools nurture and inspire each individual person throughout this process. These institutions provide the ecosystem, the environment, the challenge and the support for brilliant young minds to thrive. 🌱



## *The benefits of studying in the UK*

- **World-class schools and universities with a tradition of academic excellence**
- The UK consistently tops global rankings and is home to 28 of the top 200 universities in the world. (*Times Higher Education*, World University Rankings 2020)
- **A safe, welcoming and supportive society**
- UK graduates are among the most employable in the world (QS Graduate Employability Rankings)
- **38 per cent of Nobel Laureates who studied abroad did so in the UK (British Council research 2015)**
- Connections into a global network



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20 Individual Schools and Colleges



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# LET'S STICK TOGETHER

Strathallan School in Perthshire recently won an award in recognition of the student experience it provides for its overseas pupils. Headmaster **MARK LAUDER** tells us more...



**L**ocated within 153 acres of beautiful Scottish countryside, Strathallan School is a vibrant and family-focused British boarding school with exceptional opportunities for every student to excel.

Because most of our teachers live on site, our community is truly a family, with day and boarding pupils living and working side by side. The school welcomes students from more than 28 countries, and this mix of cultures and backgrounds means pupils make friends from all around the world and build lasting connections that continue into their adult careers. Every pupil is known and nurtured, not just in the classroom, but outside it too, and with school on Saturday mornings and outings most Sundays, there's a real sense of social togetherness seven days a week. ►







EVERY PUPIL IS KNOWN AND NURTURED, *not just in the classroom, but outside it too, and with school on Saturday mornings* AND OUTINGS MOST SUNDAYS, THERE'S A REAL SENSE OF SOCIAL TOGETHERNESS SEVEN DAYS A WEEK





## Student experience





## AT STRATHALLAN, WE *recognise and celebrate our pupils' international roots* BY MARKING KEY CULTURAL EVENTS THROUGH ASSEMBLIES, PRESENTATIONS AND FOOD FESTIVALS

### Award-winning experience

In October, Strathallan was presented with the International Student Experience award at the Independent Schools of the Year 2020 Awards. The award recognises 'the school that offers both the best and most holistic school life experience to the international students in their community'. Strict criteria must be met around international students' pastoral, academic and co-curricular experience.

At Strathallan, we recognise and celebrate our pupils' international roots by marking key cultural events through assemblies, presentations and food festivals.

### Extra English language support

The school has extended its English as an Additional Language (EAL) provision by 300 per cent, allowing all international students to receive valuable additional English support at no extra cost, and new pre-A-level courses provide a bespoke academic programme in an immersive and nurturing environment ahead of sixth-form entry. Approximately 70 per cent of the pupils who completed one of these pre-A-level courses went on to become full time students at Strathallan.

Several key members of staff are responsible for the international student experience and instrumental in delivering its success. The Director of International Study Programmes oversees the courses, assists in ensuring our students are on the correct academic programme to suit both their strengths and their needs, and provides an important link between parents, agents and students. Operationally, the school's Chinese counsellor is responsible for overseeing the experience of our Chinese pupils specifically: providing individual support, advising teaching staff and communicating with parents to ensure our Chinese community is well supported.

### A warm welcome

The International Admissions Officer oversees the admissions process for international students and is the central contact for new pupils joining the school, maintaining communication and issuing all relevant information to facilitate a smooth admissions and induction process. This latter

is a comprehensive two-day programme that gives new students and their families the opportunity to gain a clear understanding of what to expect, get to know key members of staff, peers, and other families, and be fully welcomed into the school family before the start of term. With parent meetings and alumni events all over the world, international families become and remain part of the Strathallan community for life.

### Managing through the pandemic

As one of the first schools to sign up to the Boarding Schools' Association's Covid-Safe Charter, the principles of safe distancing, thorough cleanliness practices and good personal hygiene have been at the heart of Strathallan's operational planning since the last summer. School management works closely with external consultants, as well as the School Medical Officer and qualified on-site medical staff to ensure appropriate measures and extensive contingency planning are up to date and operational. Our spacious facilities have allowed us even greater flexibility within Covid-Safe restrictions.

All pupils are issued a washable face mask, hand sanitiser, campus map and Pupil Handbook upon arrival, with mask-wearing and use of PPE applied in accordance with current guidance. Further to this, the school insists on a culture of tolerance and inclusion, with provisions made to ensure even pupils who may need to self-isolate are involved both academically and socially. A special provision put in place in September allowed all pupils to ease back into learning without the immediate pressure of academic work, and specific additional measures are in place through our sector-leading pastoral care programme, including the Wellbeing Well and enhanced individual tutor input for every pupil.

Regular, clear and comprehensive communication has also been of paramount importance for keeping pupils' families around the world informed of evolving developments. As well as regular updates and consultations, current risk assessments and key protocols are available to read through the Parent Portal. Strathallan School remains a safe, healthy and happy place for all pupils and staff. ☺

### ALL THE EXTRAS...

**A varied extracurricular programme enriches all of our pupils' lives**

One of the things that sets Strathallan apart is the scale of what's on offer across the school's 153 acres of safe Perthshire campus. With an extensive range of activities, Strathallan's extracurricular programme offers plenty of diverse experiences to explore new interests and discover hidden talents. From last September, this programme included over 70 different Covid-Safe clubs and activities spread across academia, the arts, health & wellbeing, military & outdoor, and sports interests. We're lucky to be able to respond to changes in advice from national governing bodies, with the space, resources and staff to allow us to adapt to ever-changing guidance. Old staples continue, such as jazz band and music ensembles, LAMDA, pipes and drums, ancient Greek and Christian Union, Duke of Edinburgh, CCF and John Muir, and more than 30 different sports, as well as new favourites, from ballet, Highland dance and photography, to robotics, medical ethics, yoga and mindfulness.



# Inner-city learning

DLD College London Principal, **IRFAN LATIF**, shares an insight into the innovative boarding experience provided for its overseas students in the heart of the UK's capital city

**B**ritish boarding schools are considered as some of the most sought-after institutions in the worldwide education system, with students travelling from every corner of the world to reap the benefits of a residential education in the UK.

Located on a purpose-built, state-of-the-art campus set in the heart of central London opposite Parliament, DLD College London is exceptionally unique. With more than 50 nationalities represented in our student body, we're an incredibly enriched, globally-minded school. We aim not to assimilate students to a British way of life, instead asking students to learn from each other.

In recent years, we've moved from a 'college with separate accommodation' model to an innovative, ground-breaking boarding school for students from the age of 14. Boarders live in en-suite bedrooms located on campus and take their meals in our Global Kitchen, which was officially opened by world-renowned Chef Atul Kochhar. Students are supported in their studies by staff with a wealth of experience

of helping international boarders, which in turn leads to a better understanding and higher attainment. Daily study clinics are led by academic staff members, and students can often be found discussing and debating elements of their courses around the house, both at evenings and weekends.

## CAMPUS LIFE

Our 250 boarders are housed in five 'huddles', each looked after by a 'huddle houseparent'. Our 19 common rooms have all been recently refurbished, and our recreational activities have been developed for evenings and weekends, contributing to the home-from-home atmosphere our boarders enjoy. By implementing advanced boarding software into our security and lockdown procedures, we have secured boarders' safety. In a recent survey, 100 per cent of boarding students said they felt supported, safe and secure here.

This year at the Independent Schools of the Year 2020 Awards, we were delighted to win the award for Independent Boarding School of the Year and the Judges' Special Award, in ►





**DLD's campus in the heart of London makes it unlike any other boarding school**



### **HOW STUDENTS LEARN AT DLD LONDON**

The British examination system is known as one of the finest in the world. It has a range of qualification types, with robust systems for learning and assessment. Quality assurance is taken both within schools and centrally, to maximise the quality of the offering and to ensure students receive their best-possible grades. As such, parents can feel assured that the most important person in their world is getting access to the best education in the world.

British schools focus on a range of learning techniques, all of which have students at the centre; this recognises that students will require a range of pedagogical methods to learn best. Keeping students' needs at the heart of teaching empowers them to increase their understanding and apply their learning, a useful skill for their university studies and the ever-changing world of work.

Parents can confidently expect their child to be supported to deliver their best and be well-prepared to take on the next stage of their learning journeys.





**DLD College students are encouraged to lead an active lifestyle with plenty of sporting options available**

recognition of our school's superior student wellbeing and urban boarding provision. The judges recognised DLD as a school that's 'brimming with energy' and 'offers something really special within the boarding sector for its students, combining old and new approaches to education'.

## SUPPORT AND WELLBEING

We're proud of our work in student personal development and are often recognised for our proactive and targeted pastoral care. Our wellbeing provision extends beyond the school day. Through the use of AS (Affective Social) Tracking, coaching methods, mentoring, nutrition, sleep education, and our new model of holistic pastoral care, our dedicated teams support our students in their studies, in creating and maintaining friendships, and learning the life skills necessary to progress. Students additionally have access to our award-winning Wellbeing Centre.

One of our key aims is to develop an understanding of mental health for all students and staff and we've trained over 40 students in the Mental Health First Aid Youth qualification since 2018, aiming at destigmatising the mental health concerns. This is an incredibly important point, as students arrive with varying levels of acceptance of speaking and sharing their challenges. We're ensuring that the perception of education isn't solely on academic grades, but an understanding of themselves and each other. Our parents have also been trained in mental health first aid, so that they can continue to support their sons and daughters

**TO SUPPORT STUDENTS JOINING US, *our in-depth induction programme for boarding includes* VISITS FROM THE LOCAL POLICE ABOUT KEEPING SAFE IN LONDON AND A REAL-LIFE MONOPOLY CHALLENGE**

when they're at home. By increasing our parental engagement with various forums, webinars and training opportunities, we've also moved our parents' evening online so that we can involve more of our international parents and families in their child's education and wellbeing, enabling them to also feel connected to the school.

To support students joining us, our in-depth induction programme for boarding includes visits from the local police about keeping safe in London, a real-life Monopoly Challenge to help boarders find their way around London using Oyster cards for the first time, and a sleep induction programme intended to equip boarders with ways of improving their own sleep patterns – particularly helpful for those adjusting to a significantly different time zone.

## SCHOOL COMMUNITY

To ensure a full experience of living in London, we encourage our students to engage with the local community through various projects. These include working at the local city farm and food bank, supporting campaigns for the local community centre and children's charities, and raising money for our school charity, Evelina London Children's Hospital. Our students reported to the ISI inspectors that that they see the value of 'serving rather than being served'.

Notably, throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, our school was proud to be declared as a



'beacon of hope'. The student response at the start of the first lockdown displayed excellent leadership and empathy when our remaining boarding students decided to create huge posters in support of key workers and NHS staff, displaying them in the school windows opposite St Thomas' Hospital. The initiative then evolved to children from around the UK and artists from around the world sending their NHS rainbow posters, which our students and staff collated and added to the gallery in the windows, with over 4,000 pictures displayed. During this time, their sense of social responsibility and sense of positive impact was central to their journey in support of those who supported the UK.

DLD is an inclusive community, where our core values of tolerance, respect and kindness



Students celebrate their graduation with photos taken by the Thames



The school's talented teachers have a wealth of experience working with international students

are the foundations on which this school is built – they permeate through everything we do as a community. Our rich diversity is an excellent source of inspiration and allows for those values of tolerance and respect to embed, develop and grow.

An ISI inspector recently said to us that we have ‘set the mould for urban boarding internationally’. Our facilities are fantastic, with some of the world’s best boarding accommodation. Our values are strong, our activities are endless, and our pastoral care is robust and student-centred; we’re a school which sets out to create the leaders of tomorrow by making them feel supported in their education today. Robin Fletcher, CEO of the BSA, said: “The future of boarding is right here at DLD College London”. ☺



# SAFE AND SOUND

The Boarding Schools' Association issued a Covid-Safe Charter to ensure that pupil wellbeing is prioritised and parents stay reassured during the pandemic. **DALE WILKINS** tells us how it came together



**Dale Wilkins** is Director of Safeguarding, Professional Development and Accreditation at the Boarding Schools' Association (BSA)

When BSA issued its first Covid-19-related guidance on 27 January, the virus hadn't yet reached the UK, and early concerns related entirely to travel to and from the affected areas of China. Boarding practitioners might have envisaged that this would be similar to the challenging, but ultimately manageable scenarios presented previously by SARS, MERS, H1N1 swine flu and avian flu. Early advice related to the difficulties of possibly accommodating additional children over Easter, and problems for some international boarders to get home. The wave of international lockdowns and the severe restrictions on air travel significantly changed that perspective, and very quickly the focus changed to considering how and when schools would be able to reopen safely, how boarding schools would be able to adapt to new restrictions and whether boarders resident outside the UK would be able to travel safely between home and school.

Although some schools were able to close for the lockdown and move teaching online, many continued to accommodate both children of key workers and those who had difficulty getting home. The logistical obstacles were therefore twofold: looking after those who remained safely, and preparing for the challenge of reopening in September. BSA advice included links to the relevant guidance, a comprehensive checklist of considerations and engagement with the relevant authorities to ensure the issues facing schools were fully understood.

In May, BSA produced a Covid-Safe Charter, which was then adopted by the majority of member schools. The charter was not intended to override national guidance, but to give schools clear indicators on the operational guidelines they should be following as they moved towards reopening. It covers matters such as occupancy levels, cleaning regimes, distancing requirements and domestic arrangements. It also has clear expectations relating to communication with pupils and parents, particularly for those pupils who were travelling internationally. It also advocated the use of face coverings at a time when this was not universally accepted as a useful or appropriate measure for schools. In addition to being welcomed warmly by schools, the charter also offers reassurance to parents and pupils, demonstrating that schools are doing everything they can to ensure safety.

Since September, schools have continued to operate within the expectations of the charter, but have also been absorbing more guidance

SINCE SEPTEMBER, SCHOOLS HAVE *continued to operate within the expectations of the charter*, BUT HAVE ALSO BEEN ABSORBING MORE GUIDANCE FROM ACROSS THE UK AND RESPONDED TO AN EVOLVING SITUATION

## FEATURES OF THE COVID-SAFE CHARTER

### For international pupils upon arrival in the country...

- Ensure that the pupil is met by a named person, which could be a guardian who is aware of, and follows, social distancing.
- Ensure that the named person wears a face covering at all times when in proximity to the student in enclosed areas.
- Ensure that the journey to the school is direct, that the vehicle contains sanitiser and suitable wipes.\*

from across the UK, and responded to an evolving situation. This has included putting protective 'bubbles' in place within schools and boarding houses, which has allowed schools to provide safe and effective care for their boarding pupils.

Travel within and beyond the UK has become increasingly difficult, and many schools made arrangements to ensure that pupils were able to be accommodated over exets and half-terms, which for international pupils is often in conjunction with host families and guardians. Crucially, all schools have had to adapt their procedures and will continue to do so in the coming year. They can be confident that they can respond swiftly and effectively to cases within school, or situations where pupils – particularly boarders – have potentially been in contact with people who have tested positive. For many schools, this has included ensuring access to testing, which in some cases has involved the schools purchasing testing equipment themselves.

In boarding schools, the fact that boarders aren't travelling frequently in the manner of day pupils has helped. For boarders, leaving site has now been stopped or restricted, meaning they're often in an even safer environment than their non-boarding classmates. 🍷

\*TAKEN FROM THE BSA'S COVID-SAFE CHARTER. THESE FEATURES ARE EDITED DOWN. PLEASE FIND A FULL VERSION AT BOARDING.ORG.UK



# A SOLID FOUNDATION

**MMESOMA MICHELLE EMMA-NWAKANMA**, 18 from Lagos, Nigeria is a Year 13 pupil at St Mary's Cambridge. She tells us why she came to study in the UK for her sixth form years

## Why did you want to come to study in the UK?

I was aware of the reputable education system and I knew that it would give me a solid foundation for my future career. Also, I have a few family members and friends that have schooled here and they all had positive things to say. And looking at each of them individually, I would say they have all become successful in the career path they've taken, and this is something I'd like to replicate.

## How did you and your family find out about St Mary's?

We found out about St Mary's School, Cambridge on the internet when searching for all girls' Catholic schools.

## What was the application process like?

The application process was very straightforward. I first enrolled online, then wrote entrance exams for two of my subjects (business and mathematics), after which I had an interview.

## Would your education have been very different if you had not gone overseas to study?

### And if so, how..?

If I had stayed in Nigeria, I wouldn't have done A-levels and wouldn't have had the opportunity to explore my options. During my time in St Mary's Sixth Form, I've come across so many different university courses I can take, which is more than is being offered in Nigeria currently. Also, before I started

schooling in the UK, I wasn't aware of apprenticeships and this is something my school informed us about, so I started considering these too. Even though I didn't choose this route, it's good to know that I've researched broadly all my options and have finally chosen a course I know I want to do and not because there's nothing else to do!

## Did you have any concerns about coming to study here?

I didn't have many concerns because I knew some people who have studied here already. However, one thing I was worried about was the weather: I'd never been to the UK in winter and the cold is not something I'm used to and frankly, it's not something I like either! Another thing is

the way people talk which is different from where I'm from. It was challenging to understand at first, but as time went by, I began to understand people better.

## Did you have to quarantine when you returned to school here in September?

Yes, I quarantined in London for two weeks before I came back to school.

## How were you helped out when you first arrived at the school?

On arrival at the boarding house at school, I received such a warm welcome, and the support system was great: much better than I expected! Everyone was given a welcome booklet which had information about

boarding like mealtimes, meeting times, rules and staff contact numbers. We were taken on a tour of Cambridge which was very helpful for me because it was my first time in Cambridge. We went into the city centre and were shown places like the Market Square, Grand Arcade, the Fitzwilliam Museum and of course, parts of The University of Cambridge. We were also shown shops, restaurants and the train station.

## What do you like about studying in the UK?

I like the fact that it's not too far from home (six hours) and so it doesn't feel like my family is so far away. I also have some family members and friends here in the UK. I also like the fact that there are so many things to do and places to visit during breaks from school.

## Are you planning on continuing your studies in the UK after school?

I'm hoping to study at LSE after my A-levels.

## What do your family and friends think of you coming to study here?

I think it's something they're happy about because I am receiving a high quality education and it makes them confident that I'll graduate with great knowledge and experience on how things are done in the UK and bring new ideas and apply what I've learnt back home, so that I can become a valuable member of the community. 🍷



**Mmesoma Michelle Emma-Nwakanma** hopes to study at LSE after her A-levels



# BRAVE NEW WORLD

**COLIN BELL** discusses the impact of Covid-19 on education across the globe, and reflects on how COBIS and British international schools have ensured their communities adapt and stay safe



Colin Bell is the CEO of the Council of British International Schools (COBIS)

**T**he world over, educators in British international schools and UK-based schools are known for their high-quality and deep commitment to educating, developing and improving the life chances of children and young people. Therefore, it's important to start by recognising a couple of important points: educators have demonstrated great strength and fortitude in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic; they've adapted quickly and effectively to provide continuity of education in safe and conducive learning environments for students of all ages and abilities.

You'll know that the pandemic is having a continued profound international impact for a period of time yet unknown. There will be measurable impact on education, society, economics, commerce, relationships, technology and much more. Despite our inbuilt optimism, it's not safe to assume that the way in which we all live, work, shop, travel, spend our leisure time and access or provide education, will return to what used to be so familiar.

## SAFEGUARDING AND WELLBEING

Regardless of global location, the number-one concern of discernible school leaders, staff and parents alike is for the safeguarding and wellbeing of children and adults within their school communities. British international schools have swiftly and skilfully adapted their education delivery model to that of blended learning with a mix of high-quality face to face and virtual learning and virtual pastoral care. Schools recognise the need to continually support the mental health and wellbeing of children, families and staff who have suffered, or will continue to suffer as a result of Covid-19. This may be in the form of a trauma, bereavement or dip in academic and social confidence.

The British international school sector has been quick to react and to mobilise and facilitate support on a global scale. We've responded proactively by facilitating rich professional dialogue through our ConnectED networks with school leaders, teachers, governors, HR professionals, bursars and others who support, teaching, learning and wellbeing. Plus, almost 12 months ago, the online COBIS Covid-19 Knowledge Hub was being created. This is a dynamic suite of resources for all schools and parents worldwide to share good practice, challenges and achievements. Written and webinar content is relevant, of high-quality, regularly updated and well curated to offer residual value.

This initiative has been recognised by Her Majesty's Government and the Foreign & Commonwealth Office for its positive impact.

## QUALITY ASSURANCE AND EXTERNAL VALIDATION

The bedrock of COBIS is its capacity to quality assure, promote excellence in terms of child protection and educational standards, and of course, represent the best of British international schools. The last 12 months has seen travel restrictions and quarantine measures tighten with the ability to carry out physical quality assurance visits disappear.

Covid-19 has not been permitted to stand in the way of the long-established COBIS Patron's Accreditation and Compliance scheme. During the autumn term, we successfully completed development work to conduct rigorous virtual quality assurance visits. Working with a dedicated team of trained COBIS Lead Improvement Partners (LIPs), Peer Accreditors (PAs) and Headteachers, COBIS piloted the new virtual scheme with a range of schools in terms of size, structure, phase and location to test the adapted methodology.

As you'd expect, our deep commitment to providing the best possible service to our schools remains constant as does our unimpeachable commitment to ensuring that the process remains rigorous and supportive. So, when looking for external validation of British international schools, you can be rest assured that the virtual COBIS Patron's Accreditation and Compliance scheme is by no means a diluted version of a physical visit. In addition, schools which have successfully met these rigorous standards will have demonstrated their quality to such a degree that the same five-year validity period will apply as per a previous on-site physical visit. ☺

THE BEDROCK OF COBIS IS ITS CAPACITY TO *quality assure, promote excellence in terms of child protection and education standards,* AND OF COURSE, REPRESENT THE BEST OF BRITISH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS



## Advertorial



# Considering boarding school? We are here to help

**ANDERSON EDUCATION**, the UK boarding school specialists, provide free impartial advice and guidance when looking for the best school

A UK boarding school education ensures students gain good qualifications, confidence, independence and a breadth of interests – a true education for life! The environment of a UK boarding school is motivating, nurturing, caring and aims to give each child the opportunities to develop their personal talents to the full and achieve their academic potential. One of the key features of boarding school life is the wide range of activities and experiences, which gives boarders the opportunity to develop skills and interests beyond the academic curriculum; these varied life skills and interests greatly contribute to career development.

At boarding school you're part of a community; you make friends for life, whatever part of the world they come from. Sports, hobbies, dance, drama, music, art, public speaking, aerobics, philosophy, pottery, gymnastics and much more are all on offer at most. Boarding school life is excellent preparation for university and employment, as it provides many of the non-academic skills that employers are looking for. You're encouraged to participate in team events and there are opportunities to be elected to positions of responsibility, such as sports captain, head of boarding house, prefect, peer mentor and many more.

Finding the right school is a daunting prospect, particularly when you live thousands of miles away. Anderson Education, the UK boarding school specialists offer families free impartial help and advice; we have visited more than 350 UK boarding schools and are able to help families through the process. The unique education service is tailored to the individual needs of each child and their family; Anderson Education understands the importance of this emotional and financial decision to provide the best education possible for our children.

There has never been a better time to consider a UK boarding education – contact us today! 📞

[www.andersoneducation.co.uk](http://www.andersoneducation.co.uk)

[enquiries@andersoneducation.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@andersoneducation.co.uk)

Tel: +44 1474 815 450

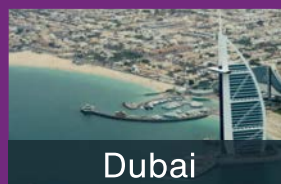
## UK Boarding School Specialists

We help families find the best UK boarding school for their child; our education service is free, impartial, and tailored to the individual family.

We have visited over 350 schools and use this knowledge to recommend schools for your consideration.

## UK Boarding School Exhibition

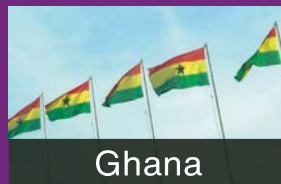
An opportunity for families to meet heads of leading UK schools in:



Dubai



Nigeria



Ghana



British Forces

## UK Boarding School Directory



Available online!

Check our website for up to date information:  
**[www.andersoneducation.co.uk](http://www.andersoneducation.co.uk)**  
[sara@andersoneducation.co.uk](mailto:sara@andersoneducation.co.uk)

**ANDERSON**  
education  
Leading UK Boarding School Specialists  
since 1999

PROUD TO SUPPORT  
**EDUCATION**  
**IS**  
**GREAT**  
BRITAIN & NORTHERN IRELAND




# GREAT BRITISH EDUCATION *overseas*

Combining a world-class UK national curriculum with award-winning programmes, exceptional facilities and enriching extracurricular initiatives, these British international schools offer children the very best start





An aerial photograph of Hong Kong, showing a dense urban landscape with numerous high-rise buildings. The city is situated on a peninsula and is surrounded by green, hilly terrain. The harbor is visible in the foreground, with several boats and ferries moving across the water, leaving white wakes. The sky is a mix of blue and soft orange/pink, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The text is overlaid on the upper left portion of the image.

**T**he excellence and high regard of a British education extends overseas. Research data estimates that there are approximately 6,000 British international schools around the globe. Some of these schools are branches or franchises of well-known UK independent schools such as Haileybury in Kazakhstan, Brighton College in the Middle East and Epsom College in Malaysia. However, most British international schools are free-standing independent schools, with a long tradition of serving expatriate communities and, more recently, local families.

British international schools teach the UK national curriculum, often in tandem with the local curriculum or other international curricula, such as the International Primary Curriculum (IPC) or the International Baccalaureate (IB). British education is respected worldwide and this is also partly based on the increased recognition of big names in UK education – famous schools and universities – but also because the British system is known to provide a broad, balanced curriculum, alongside good pastoral care and an excellent range of extracurricular activities.

Some parents choose British international schools because they want their children to be able to go on to university in the UK or another English-speaking country. Parents who move around for work purposes, on the other hand, will benefit from schools that teach in English and from the national curriculum, as it means their children can easily move from one school to another. ►

**Pupils based in Hong Kong can still have a UK independent school education**



# Kellett

## THE BRITISH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL IN HONG KONG

Mark Steed, Principal & CEO, discusses Kellett's commitment to instilling resilience and ability to adapt to challenging times



After a challenging 12 months here in Hong Kong, our community had a real reason to celebrate when Kellett School won the British international category at this year's Independent Schools of the Year 2020 Awards.

In 2019, Hong Kong grappled with political unrest and then in 2020, like the rest of the world, the pandemic. Despite these challenges, our school has continued to provide the exceptional education that we've been known for since our founding in 1976.

Kellett came into being when a group of parents sought to provide a high quality British-style education for their children. From one small school to today's two prep schools and a senior school, Kellett's growth in size and stature owes a great deal to parent participation, something which remains very strong to this day. The vast majority of our families are British, although we have students from more than 30 different countries.

Over 1,400 students aged between four and 18 experience an inspiring and stimulating educational environment where high academic achievement is realised within a broad English curriculum embracing creativity, the arts and sport. Our students secure outstanding results, akin to top British independent schools.

Kellett students can access award-winning spaces, including a theatre, gym, swimming pool with adjustable floor, dance and drama studio and a large artificial turf and multi-sport area including a rooftop running track.

When we won this year's award, we were commended for cultivating wellbeing through Positively Kellett, our bespoke positive education programme. Never has it been more important to ensure that our young people are prepared for the stresses and strains of life. Positively Kellett, which delivers a bespoke curriculum to every child, is structured to provide students with the skills to enable resilience, whatever life throws at them.

At Kellett, we were more prepared than most for Covid-19 as a result of Hong Kong schools having been closed for a period due to social



unrest. The closure highlighted the importance of developing the protocols, skills and platforms to be able to shift seamlessly to home learning. That meant that when Covid-19 hit and we headed into three months of closure, our home learning was up and running quickly and effectively, ensuring student learning was as unaffected as possible.

Now we're back on site we continue to ensure our campuses are safe; masks are mandatory and social distancing policies are in place. Despite these changes, our students have coped admirably and are happy to be back in school, thriving and achieving as before.

It is testament to their resilience, our superb staff and highly supportive parents, that in the most challenging year of the school's history we've not only achieved a set of outstanding results, but also been recognised as *Independent School Parent's* Best British International School of 2020. I couldn't be prouder of our community here in Hong Kong.



**Comprising two prep schools and one senior school, Kellett is a high-achieving environment, with award-winning facilities and inspired wellbeing initiatives**

PHOTOGRAPHY: SHUTTERSTOCK/KANOKSULAIMAN



# Gordonstoun

## NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA



**Lisa Kerr, Principal of Gordonstoun in Moray, reveals how its new overseas outpost will continue the school's adventurous heritage**



**When not studying, Gordonstoun's Nova Scotia students can expect to spend plenty of time in the great outdoors, enjoying pursuits such as sailing, camping and voluntary services**

**G**ordonstoun, in north-east Scotland was the first school to educate an heir to the British throne, and counts three generations of the British Royal family among its alumni.

Located between the Cairngorm National Park and the Moray Firth, the school pioneered the concept of character education. The Gordonstoun motto, *Plus Est En Vous* – 'there is more in you' – is as relevant today as it was when visionary educationalist, Dr Kurt Hahn, founded the school in 1934.

Hahn's vision was that young people needed to be challenged in order to develop the skills they would need for life, such as resilience, responsibility and compassion. The school's unique ethos combines academic achievement with exhilarating outdoor experiences and a strong commitment to voluntary service. The

Netflix drama series about the British Royal Family, *The Crown*, inaccurately depicted this as a tough regime of cross-country running and cold showers but the reality is that students spend time on an ocean-going sail training vessel, go camping in the Highlands and volunteer at the UK's only school-based fire station – all as part of the curriculum. HRH The Duke of Edinburgh was so inspired by his time at the school that he gave his name to The Duke of Edinburgh's Award which began as a Gordonstoun assessment and is now undertaken by children around the world.

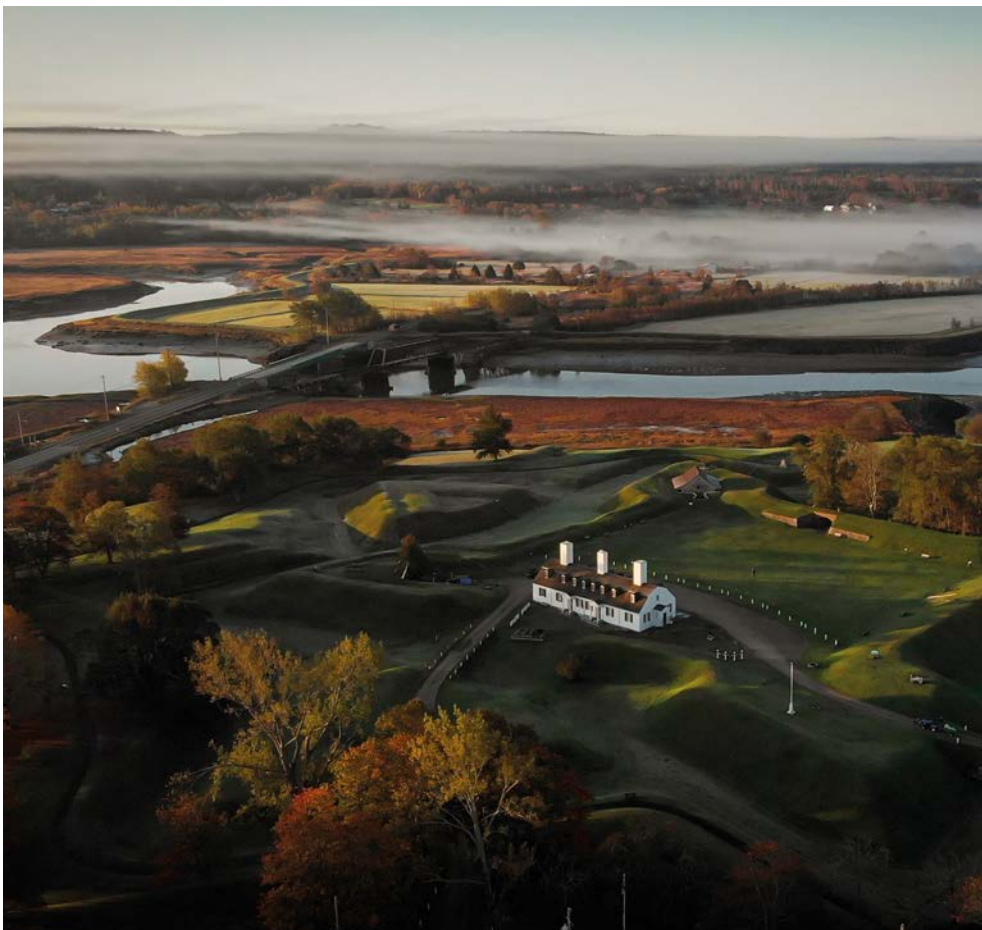
Today, the school is expanding globally and in March 2020, it announced plans to open an overseas school in Nova Scotia.

Gordonstoun Nova Scotia will be located in a beautiful rural site which extends to approximately 250 acres, in Annapolis County. The campus lies between the sea and the hills, allowing a curriculum which will mirror that of its famous parent school.

Gordonstoun has always been an outward-looking school, welcoming children from all over the world and building understanding and tolerance between people from diverse backgrounds and cultures. We believe that this educational ethos, which is central to the Gordonstoun curriculum, is what the world needs at the moment.

In Scotland, Gordonstoun has risen to the challenge of Covid-19 by moving even more lessons outside. Sail training, expeditions and voluntary service have continued following rigorous risk assessments and, if a child needs to self-isolate, they receive live online lessons.

Attending a school like Gordonstoun is an incredible opportunity for really exceptional young people who have a sense of adventure. They should be compassionate and empathetic and have the potential to be able to make a difference in the world. They don't have to be the finished article – we will develop their confidence, resilience, responsibility, team-working skills and give them an international outlook – but they do need to have the right attitude to take advantage of the amazing opportunities on offer at Gordonstoun, whether in Scotland or Nova Scotia.





# Park House English School

## DOHA, QATAR



Principal **John Smith** explains how the school's educational values, inclusive culture and specialist facilities are a recipe for success

**P**ark House English School was founded in 1994 by Mrs Heather Brennan, a British headteacher looking to provide a high quality education to the expatriate and local community in Doha, Qatar. The Brennan family ownership continued until 2016, when the school was acquired by UK-based schools group, International School Partnership. We're proud of our history and continue to nurture the founding ethos, while bringing best practices from the UK into our teaching and learning. This ensures that our students achieve the highest levels of academic excellence and are equipped to deal with the demands of modern society. Significant numbers of our students attend UK universities each year.

Park House is a long-standing member of British Schools in the Middle East (BSME) and I'm privileged to serve as the Honorary Treasurer for the organisation. The advantages of BSME membership are numerous, with access to learning opportunities for our students and CPD for our staff. One particular area of note is the BSME Networks, which give staff the opportunity to engage in online CPD sessions ranging from subject specialisation to leadership training. Park House is a network lead school for MFL and Safeguarding and Safer Recruitment. We're also a member of COBIS, as this also opens up significant opportunities for our students and staff.

Students are between three and 18 years old and, while British children are our largest nationality group, we're proud to have more than 70 different nationalities represented in our community. Our core learning throughout all stages follows the National Curriculum for England. In the primary years it's enhanced by the International Primary Curriculum, while in secondary our students sit IGCSE and A-level examinations. We have all the specialist facilities needed to provide the programmes we offer, including ICT suites, science labs, music room (with music tech) and art spaces. We also have extensive sporting facilities: a 25m



swimming pool, AstroTurf, outside courts and a fully-equipped sports hall.

The emergence of Covid-19 has brought some interesting challenges. When schools closed in April, students were plunged into the depths of online learning. As a Microsoft-certified school, we had already developed the use of technology to support learning. This meant we were in a strong position to quickly transition to virtual learning. Schools opened up again in September, and we're currently operating with a daily rotation of 50 per cent of our students in line with strict safety measures. We've invested in new equipment, including thermographic cameras for temperature checks upon entry, particle sprayers for regular whole-site disinfection and hand sanitisers in corridors and classrooms. Staff and most students are required to wear face masks throughout the day. We have strict, regularly reinforced, social distancing guidelines, and in classrooms students are distanced from each other. While it's not what we ultimately want for our students, it's keeping our community safe and, most importantly, it allows high quality learning to continue. 🍏



**Park House School was already Microsoft certified prior to the pandemic, meaning that it adapted well to the online learning needs of its pupils in lockdown**



## Gordon's School, Surrey

Bagshot Road, West End, Surrey GU24 9PT



**Headteacher:** Andrew Moss

**Admissions:** registrar@gordons.school (main school)  
sixthformregistrar@gordons.school (sixth form)  
+44 (0)1276 858084

**GENDER/AGES:** Boys and girls, 11-18 years

**FEES:** Senior (day) from £2,078, weekly boarding from £5,789, full boarding from £6,184 per term.

**TYPICAL CLASS SIZE:** Senior – 22, sixth form – 12

**FAITH:** Non-denominational. **MOTTO:** *Semper Fidelis – (Ever Faithful)*

**ENTRANCE PROCEDURE:** The main school offers a non-selective entry. Entry into the Sixth Form is conditional upon a minimum qualifying standard for each subject studied. There is also over-subscription criteria for both schools.

**School Philosophy:** We recognise that a good education is not just about outstanding examination results but a thorough preparation for life. It is about providing opportunities and experiences for all young people to find their talents and interests, develop good character, become accomplished and achieve across a range of disciplines and ultimately develop the confidence to go and make their mark in the world. Our aim is to develop world-class world citizens. We believe in modern ideas alongside traditional values together

with a broad and balanced curriculum and that high performance without good character is not true success at all.

**Academic Record:** Gordon's is in the top 1% of schools nationally for progress over the last four years at A-Levels. Students are challenged to attain a grade higher than they would in other schools and over 90% of Sixth Formers reach their chosen destination after A-Levels.

**Extracurricular:** Students are offered over 50 different activities including sports, academic enrichment, and creative and outdoor pursuits during their extended school day and on Saturday mornings. Competitions are offered in both intra and Inter-House and against other schools. The school boasts an enviable record in the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme and runs a tri-service Combined Cadet Force (CCF). The school has formed a partnership with Harlequins Rugby Club for talented players to follow the DiSE (Diploma in Sporting Excellence) programme. A 50 strong Pipes and Drums band reflect the ceremonial tradition of the school and lead Parades of the student body.

**Notable Achievements and Alumni:** The school is the National Memorial to General Gordon and its patron is the reigning sovereign. Notable Gordonians include Hannah Russell MBE, gold medal Paralympian swimmer, Olympic Gold netball medallist Eboni Usoro-Brown, Wales rugby player Jake Ball, and professional golfer Steve Brown.

**www.gordons.school**

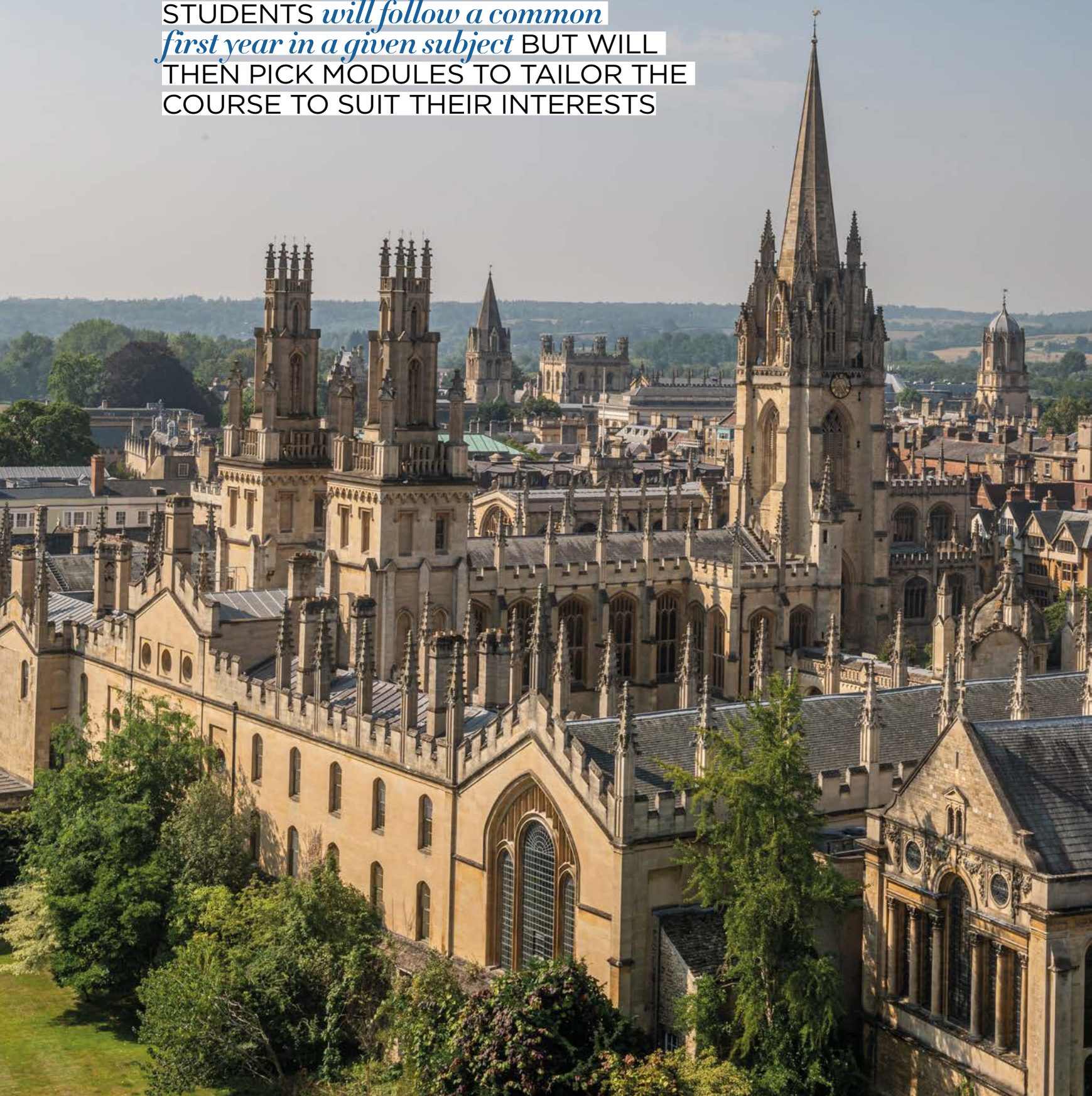
**Open Days: September, October and November 2021. See website for details.**



927



TYPICALLY, UNDERGRADUATE  
STUDENTS *will follow a common  
first year in a given subject* BUT WILL  
THEN PICK MODULES TO TAILOR THE  
COURSE TO SUIT THEIR INTERESTS





# VARYING DEGREES

**THALIA THOMPSON** gives a breakdown of the types of higher education courses you can take at UK universities and institutions, as well as the careers advice and networking opportunities on offer

**T**he UK is one of the world's most popular destinations for higher education with more than 450,000 international students. And it's easy to see why. There have been universities here for almost a thousand years and the 2021 QS university rankings show that the UK, a country with less than one per cent of the world's population, accounts for four of the top-ten universities in the world.

Impressive though these elite universities are, they're not the whole story. There are more than 100 universities and other higher education institutions, offering a first-class education to suit the needs of everyone.

## Undergraduate courses

Most undergraduate or bachelor's degrees in the UK last three years and are taught using a combination of lectures, seminars and tutorials, with practical or lab-based work where relevant.

Undergraduates can also apply to do integrated master's degrees. These follow the bachelor's course for three years and then, subject to achieving agreed grades, lead straight on to the master's programme.

As well as universities, there are also conservatoires which provide specialist education in music, dance and drama. Further education colleges offer qualifications such as a Higher National Diploma (HND) or Foundation degree (not the same as a Foundation year, see glossary). These courses have a strong vocational content and costs are usually lower. Both qualifications are equivalent to two years of a bachelor's degree and on completion you can normally continue your studies for a further year for a full degree.

## Postgraduate courses

Master's degrees can be taught or research based. A taught master's will involve a set timetable of lectures and seminars plus a dissertation. For a research master's or doctorate, you'll have guidance and support from an academic supervisor but the focus will be on your own thesis. Shorter postgraduate courses are also available, with a postgraduate certificate or diploma taking one or two terms respectively.

## Standards you can trust

High standards are guaranteed with an external examiner a requirement for all degrees. In addition, many courses in subjects like engineering or accountancy have been accredited by the relevant professional bodies.



You can find more information about accreditation at the Discover Uni site ([www.discoveruni.gov.uk](http://www.discoveruni.gov.uk)) This government website contains a wealth of official statistics enabling potential students to compare everything from student satisfaction to employment and salary prospects.

## Flexibility

British university courses are focused but flexible. Typically, undergraduate students will follow a common first year in a given subject but will then pick modules to tailor the course to suit their interests. You also study for joint or combined honours, giving an even larger choice of modules. Study is intensive, but this means a degree can be completed sooner. For instance, a typical bachelor's degree takes three years in the UK but four in the US. Similarly, a master's usually takes a year in the UK but two years in the US and Australia.

## Career opportunities

Studying in the home of the English language, with teaching methods that encourage debate, produces individuals with the critical thinking and communication skills that employers prize. Universities have professional advisors to help make the most of your opportunities. For example, at the University of Birmingham as Elijah James, ►





MOVING TO ANOTHER COUNTRY CAN  
BE DAUNTING, *but universities work hard  
to ensure international students settle in.*  
THERE ARE STUDENT COUNSELLING  
AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Head of International Recruitment explains: “Careers network staff are committed to supporting graduates as they enter the world of employment – whether they need to talk through options, practice for interviews, or find the job that’s right for them.”

### Supporting students

Moving to another country can be daunting, but universities work hard to ensure international students settle in. There are student counselling and support services and pre-sessional induction courses. “We advise students on what they can expect, visa applications, and even suggestions of what to pack,” says Ben Matthews, Head of Global Engagement at Lancaster University, “We offer flexible arrivals and arrange airport pick-ups with friendly student ambassadors.”

### Valuing excellence

Despite the effects of the global pandemic it appears that demand remains strong, with UCAS figures reported in September showing a nine per cent increase in students from outside the EU. As Professor Bruce Rayton, Academic Director of Admissions at the University of Bath says, “We’re determined to build on what we’ve learned through this crisis. Whatever situation we find ourselves in for the next academic year, our commitment is to providing a learning environment which continues to embed the skills and understanding that will be most valuable for our students, and most sought after by employers.” ☺

## GLOSSARY

Before filling in that UCAS form, get to grips with undergrad terminology

### RUSSELL GROUP

A group of 24 research-intensive universities. Taking their name from the Hotel Russell in London’s Russell Square where the first meetings were held, this group of universities produce almost 70% of the UK’s world-leading research.

### RED-BRICK UNIVERSITY

The origins of this term goes back to Victorian times, when institutions, often specialising in valuable vocational skills such as engineering or medicine, became universities in their own right. It takes its name from the style of decorative brickwork used for public buildings at the time.

### COLLEGIATE UNIVERSITY

As well as belonging to a university and an academic faculty, students are also part of a smaller college community which can offer extra pastoral and academic support.

### CAMPUS UNIVERSITY

Student accommodation, teaching, research and leisure facilities are all together on one site.

### FOUNDATION YEAR

An access course for students who don’t have quite the right qualifications for their chosen degree. Many universities offer International Foundation Years to help fill any academic gaps and ensure students have the English language and study skills they need. Students who successfully complete the foundation year automatically progress on to begin a bachelor’s degree at the same university.

### SANDWICH DEGREE

Also known as a ‘year in industry’ degree, this includes a work placement in the second or third year of a four-year degree. This can give students invaluable professional experience. Applying for placements is competitive, but students are given support in the application process.





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■ Mrs E, Parent, 2020

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# YOUR HOME *away* FROM HOME

Studying far from home can be challenging but as **ELIZABETH IVENS** discovers, universities have dedicated resources in place to ensure their international cohort feel welcomed and cared for



University of  
Birmingham



EXPERIENCED IN ACCOMMODATING  
*growing numbers of international  
students,* MANY UNIVERSITIES HAVE  
DEDICATED INTERNATIONAL TEAMS AND  
PROGRAMMES WHICH ARE AVAILABLE AS  
SOON AS A STUDENT ACCEPTS AN OFFER

**M**ore than two million international students have chosen to study in the UK in the last decade, according to the British Council, with numbers continuing to rise despite the global coronavirus pandemic.

UCAS reported a nine per cent increase in international undergraduates in 2020/2021.

The rise signified not only a continued belief in the value of a British university education with its world-renowned academic reputation but also a validation of the outstanding pastoral care on offer.

Universities worked hard to ensure this care strengthened during the pandemic, introducing safety measures and protocols, and switching services online where necessary.

### Putting the student first

Experienced in accommodating growing numbers of international students, many universities have dedicated international teams and lay on programmes which are available as soon as a student accepts an offer.

Not only does this include help and advice on practical issues such as immigration, language needs and finance but increasingly on meeting present and future pastoral needs.

Study UK, an expert guide to British universities, spearheaded by the British Council, reported that many UK universities are 'going above and beyond to ensure that students' physical and mental health and wellbeing are prioritised'.

At University College London (UCL), one of four UK universities in the Top 20 of the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2021, more than 20,000 students (nearly half of the university's entire cohort) are international.

Dr Valentina Seravalle, Senior Liaison and Recruitment Officer at UCL Student Recruitment, said UCL is rightly known as 'London's global university' with students coming from more than 150 countries.

The university has its own International Student Support (ISS) Team which runs an

interactive programme where queries are answered by current or recent UCL graduates.

A finely tuned welcome package also involves 'countdown emails' focusing on topics including wellbeing, support services, settling in and campus life, and orientation webinars.

### Pastoral care at university

Meanwhile, at the University of Cambridge, a quarter of its undergraduates and half of its postgraduates – a total of 9,000 of the university's 22,000 students – are international.

Head of the International Student Office, Anthony Dangerfield, said the nature of its collegiate system means pastoral care is provided throughout its 29 colleges.

He explained: "Pastoral care is provided through these colleges in the form of personal tutors and current student networks will help support arrival and orientation with initiatives such as a buddy system, which will see a fresher paired with an older student. ►





University of Birmingham's sports facilities



University of Bath

"Each college has its own nurse or counsellor and there are international student societies that can be joined."

Similarly, at Oxford University, Professor Martin Williams, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education said that international students experienced Oxford "primarily through their life in college, where there are college staff available for wellbeing support, as well as academic resources for those that need it, and many colleges have student international reps, who represent the interest of international students to college and offer peer support."

"Oxford University students come to an environment that is very international, and the life and support they receive reflects that." He added, "the university and colleges make provision for international students from pre-arrival to orientation and throughout their experience at their colleges and the university. There are clubs, societies and student organisations that cater to just about every culture and nationality represented in Oxford."

At the University of Bath, which has around 6,000 international students, a dedicated international programme to prepare and welcome international students is provided.

Saskia Heijltjes, Head of Student Marketing (Postgraduate Taught), said: "We recognise that to study in the UK and to move far away from home is a big decision. That's why we provide a range of services to ensure your move to Bath is as straightforward as possible."

"We can also help connect new students with

## CASE STUDIES

How we did it



**Yipeng Zeng**

**PHD STUDENT IN EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HULL**

*from Putian City, Fujian Province, China*

"Hull has a special culture and history and is welcoming and friendly. It was voted UK City of Culture in 2017 and I like it because it's a small city, and living expenses are lower than most."

"During the first few months of the pandemic, I cherished life more and participated in many charity and volunteering activities. I was honoured to be elected as the new international student part-time officer at Hull University Student Union."

"Despite the restrictions of studying mostly online in my first year here - I'm pleased to say that my academic supervisor has helped me a lot throughout these challenging months."

"Fortunately, we have had lots of safety education from the university, and we have been given many chances to explain how we feel and get the help we need. I think of it as education with integrity."



**Karen Yan Kwok**

**A THIRD-YEAR STUDENT AT UCL STUDYING FOR A BSC IN BIOPROCESSING OF NEW MEDICINES**

*from Hong Kong*

"Studying in the UK is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. It upholds an academic rigour which might not be achieved in other systems."

"Pastoral care is offered at different levels at UCL. The Student Union also offers a range of advice services. We also have Faculty tutors at a faculty level and an academic tutor at a Departmental level."

"In my case, surprisingly, pastoral care has been better during the pandemic. UCL has explored other ways of communication other than email which means that tutors can be reached in many ways, which might not be the case in previous years."

"Covid-19 is an unprecedented time, but I think our Department has utilised this opportunity to upgrade their student experiences."





University of Oxford

our alumni students around the world to find out what it's like to study at Bath."

### Hitting the ground running

Back at UCL, Chris Bromley, International Student Advisor (UCL Study Abroad & International Student Support), said international students were prepared for life at UCL "from the moment a student accepts an offer," leading to an International Student Orientation Programme (ISOP) the week before teaching starts including talks on safety and security and wellbeing.

He added: "ISOP provides an opportunity for UCL to welcome the arrival of new international students. It's also a significant part of their preparation, with the programme providing information, advice and guidance to ensure they hit the ground running when teaching commences."

At the University of Hull in north-east England, where a growing number of international students account for more than one in ten of the student body, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (International) Philip M Gilmartin

said international students were also supported from the time they accepted their offer to their first days on campus including overseas pre-departure events. These events, normally held in person, switched to online in 2020 but, it is hoped, a mixture of face to face and online events will be held from 2021.

Professor Gilmartin said a full arrivals and induction service had been developed for students prior to them joining welcome week activities with all other students, supplemented by help from specialist practitioners.

He said: "At Hull there's a strong awareness throughout the institution that there can be added challenges when living and studying far from home, as well as cultural differences."

In Bath, support services include access to wellbeing advisers, with welfare and wellbeing drop-in sessions run daily for issues ranging from emotional difficulties to loneliness.

"You can talk to a wellbeing adviser about anything – they work hard to create a safe and inclusive space," said Ms Heijltjes.

International student wellbeing is also taken very seriously at UCL, with overseas students

being advised on how to access counselling and support services during their orientation process through the university's Student Support and Wellbeing team.

UCL's Chris Bromley explained: "A student's wellbeing and mental health is intrinsic to the quality of their degree and it's our job to ensure that international students studying at UCL are offered the best support possible."

### Post-pandemic accessibility

Meanwhile at Hull, which has the distinction of being the official university partner of Team GB right through to the Paris 2024 Olympics, a new international strategy is being launched this year and international postgraduate taught fees have been reduced to the level of home fees for September 2021 only.

Professor Gilmartin explained: "We really value what international students bring to campus life. We recognise the difficulties 2020 has presented to those seeking an international education, and in response to events like Covid-19 and Brexit we want to make sure students are still able to pursue that opportunity." 🍷



# LOADED LANGUAGE

**JANE DANCASTER** discusses why a strong foundation in the English language is necessary for a successful academic career



**Jane Dancaster is the Managing Director of the Wimbledon School of English, London**

**H**aving a good foundation in English is the key to your child's academic success story in the UK, and where better to study English than in the UK, the home of the English language? The UK English language sector has been delivering high quality English courses in specialist English language schools for more than a hundred years, and we think there's no better place to improve your English than in at a UK based British Council Accredited English school. With a reputation for academic excellence, combined with a rich cultural heritage and diversity, thriving cities and beautiful countryside, it's the perfect destination for your linguistic journey.

Every year approximately 550,000 people from more than 100 different countries travel to this country to study English, with juniors (under 18s) accounting for 54 per cent. Students as young as six years old come here on short courses and at Wimbledon School of English, we recently welcomed an 83 year old from Spain, which just proves that you're never too old to learn a language. In fact, learning a language and learning dance routines have both been cited as good ways to stimulate neural pathways and aid memory as one gets older.

For our younger clients, I really believe that studying in a different country far away from home develops a range of important life skills including confidence, independence, communication and responsibility. It provides a great opportunity to learn about different cultures and traditions and build an international network of friends. Students become part of a global community united by the English language. It's a truly life-changing experience and a short course in a summer camp or a longer pre-sessional academic English programme can be the first step on a young person's pathway to university and onwards to a great career.

Here in Wimbledon we've seen many changes over the years in our clients' needs and demands. We now live in a global community and we all benefit from the fact the English is the language of international communication, and the variety of courses available reflects this. General English is still important because it provides the essential foundation you need, but you can then progress onto our more specialised programmes, such as IELTS or Cambridge examination preparation, English for Business, English for Law, English for Academic Purposes and English for Medicine, and for our teenage clients, Young

Leaders and Future Leaders.

WSE is one of very few independent English Language schools in the UK. It's rare to find an ELT school such as ours which is still a family business, passed down through the generations. The school was started on a very small scale in 1964 in India, by Mrs Marjorie Housden, who was there with her husband Gerard, a doctor who was working in North India with the Church Missionary Society. Marjorie, who originally trained as a PE teacher, ran English language classes for local children and fell in love with English teaching. When the Housdens returned to the UK in 1966 and settled in Wimbledon, Marjorie continued her small school. I think if Marjorie were here now, she would hardly recognise the school but I know she'd be very pleased to see that delivering top quality in everything we do is still at our core, and we're very proud to have been named as the number-one English language centre in the UK (from 570 British Council accredited language schools) every year since 2014.

The British Council Accreditation scheme is known for having the most rigorous language school inspections in the world. A team of inspectors spends several days looking at every aspect of the school, from teaching to welfare, and student safeguarding is a key factor. It is also the only language school inspection scheme that observes every teacher teaching at least one class. ☺

*Always check that the English language school you choose is accredited: [www.britishcouncil.org/education/accreditation](http://www.britishcouncil.org/education/accreditation)*

I REALLY BELIEVE THAT *studying in a different country far away from home develops* A RANGE OF IMPORTANT LIFE SKILLS, INCLUDING CONFIDENCE, INDEPENDENCE, COMMUNICATION AND RESPONSIBILITY



## Orwell Park School, Suffolk

Nacton, Ipswich, Suffolk IP10 0ER



**Headteacher:** Adrian Brown, MA Cantab

**Admissions:** [admissions@orwellpark.org](mailto:admissions@orwellpark.org)

+44 (0)1473 659225

**GENDER/AGES:** Boys and girls, 2½-13 years

**FEES:** Nursery (day) from £55, pre-prep (day) from £2,795-£3,974, prep (day) from £5,792-£6,386, prep (weekly boarding) from £7,715-£8,264, prep (full boarding) from £8,674-£9,200 per term

**TYPICAL CLASS SIZE:** Prep - 12-16

**FAITH:** Church of England

**ENTRANCE PROCEDURE:** Interview and entrance test.

**School Philosophy:** Boys and girls are given every opportunity to be the best they can be, both in and outside the classroom. High expectations, and learning strategies tailored to the individual child, lead to high levels of attainment. Academic achievement and pastoral care are given top priority, alongside the core values such as courtesy, personal responsibility and respect for others. Children are encouraged to take on challenges, to overcome setbacks and to see failure as part of the journey to success, to develop the resilience, initiative, flexibility, creativity and collaborative skills that will prepare them for the next stage of their education and later life.

**Academic Record:** In 2020, leaving pupils were awarded 23 scholarships to senior schools in 2020 Scholarships into Year 7 and Year 5 available in a wide variety of areas: music, art, DT, academic, drama and sport. Leaving pupils proceed to a wide range of senior schools: Eton, Harrow, Winchester, Tonbridge, King's Canterbury, Benenden and Gordonstoun to the more local day schools, Ipswich, Woodbridge and Felsted among others.

**Extracurricular:** The beauty of the grounds and the 110 acres allow the pupils to pursue a wide variety of extracurricular activities from the OPS Challenge to bushcraft and many sports. With a Forest School instructor on staff, the enjoyment of the environment also extends to the pre-prep.

Orwell Park pupils are also involved in a comprehensive activity programme, including: orchestra and various ensembles, chess, community service, skiing, equestrianism, climbing, OPS Challenge (a mini Dof E course), camping and campfire fun in the school's woodlands, Art and DT clubs, Goldies and Blueys (boys' club), as well as numerous large scale theatrical productions.

[www.orwellpark.co.uk](http://www.orwellpark.co.uk)

**Open Week: January 30 to February 5 2021**



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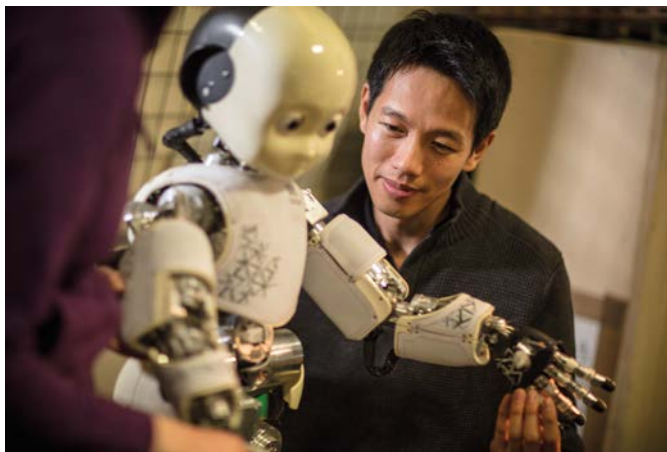
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# STRIVE FOR GREATNESS

A UK postgraduate education, made possible with a GREAT scholarship, could be the key to your lifelong career success



**A**cademics and employers across the globe admire and respect the formidable reputation of the UK's education system, and our graduates are among the most employable in the entire world. They have a significant competitive edge over peers educated in other countries. They're progressing further, being promoted quicker, and earning more because of the prestigious education they've received in the UK.

That's because the UK's universities and colleges consistently have top world rankings. Two of the world's top-three universities can be found here – and a further 26 of our universities and colleges are among the world's 200 best institutions for learning. It's why the UK is the perfect place to complete a postgraduate programme. It's a place for students to learn from the very best and make important and lasting connections with fellow students from around the world. All in the home of the English language.

A GREAT scholarship could help make students' dream of studying in the UK a reality. The Study UK campaign is offering more than 300 scholarships from 43 UK universities to students from 13 countries for the 2021-22 academic year. The scholarships are funded by the British Council, the GREAT Britain campaign and the participating UK institutions.

Students are eligible to apply for a GREAT scholarship if they're a citizen of Bangladesh, China, Egypt, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka or Thailand, and have an undergraduate degree that will gain their entry on to a postgraduate programme at a UK university. They must also meet the academic and English language requirements of their chosen university.

The minimum value of each scholarship is £10,000, which

goes towards students' tuition fees. Some scholarships are worth more – you can check the value of each scholarship on the Study UK website. GREAT scholarships are offered for one-year master's degrees across a range of subjects.

Applicants can search for the GREAT scholarships available on the Study UK website, and go on to apply through the university itself. Application deadlines vary by university, so applicants should check with their chosen university when they need to apply by.

A warm welcome is waiting for all international students here. The UK is a very safe country, with low crime rates and a trustworthy police force. Our NHS (National Health Service) is one of the world's most advanced healthcare systems, offering safe and modern treatment. Universities offer excellent and comprehensive support to students around issues of wellbeing and mental health. In addition, many institutions provide on-site security, safety briefings and orientation sessions, so that students feel secure, supported, and ready to learn. 🇬🇧

*Students can become the best possible version of themselves in the UK. And now through GREAT scholarships, this will become possible for many more students around the world. Find out more by visiting the Study UK website at: <https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/>*

**Study without limitations at one of the UK's top universities**





# LIVING THE DREAM

**ANU SHAH**, 22 from Bangalore in India, was awarded a GREAT Scholarship to study an MSc in Advanced Organic Chemistry at the University of East Anglia. Here's her story...

## How old were you when you took your master's degree?

I was 21.

## Why did you want to come to the UK to study?

I was passionate about doing my master's in the UK, since UK education has a reputation for its world-class research. UK higher education degrees and qualifications are recognised by employers and academics worldwide. As international students, we get the opportunity to develop the skills, knowledge, critical thinking, and connections to drive forward our careers. We get plenty of support at university, and a chance to experience a great, authentic student lifestyle.

## How did you fulfil your academic dream?

I started applying for different universities and received the offers within a couple of days. However, I knew I couldn't afford the tuition fees, so when I received a call from the University of East Anglia to hear that I had been nominated for a scholarship based on my academic career and curriculum activities, I was over the moon. My dream to study in the UK came true when I received a 2019 GREAT scholarship from the British Council whereby my tuition fees were fully waived.

## How did you feel when you heard the news?

I remember calling up my family and crying over the phone when I got the

scholarship. I'd just been to Chennai to attend the award ceremony and I was being handed a shiny certificate with my name on it. Coming from a humble background, it was such a huge thing for all of us, and not something we expected. My parents and sister couldn't have been prouder of me. My dreams had started unfolding in front of my very own eyes.

## What happened next?

The moment came when I had to say goodbye to family and friends. A new chapter of my life was waiting for me in Norwich. Initially it was very tough for me to get used to the new living conditions, the British culture and learning, but over time I started enjoying each and every

Anu had a wonderful experience in Norwich



from aspiring to come to study in the UK to living the dream within a span of one year. I'll always cherish these as the best days of my life. Looking back now, I feel so blessed to have been part of this scholarship and have this extraordinary experience.

## How has studying in the UK helped you in your professional life?

it prepared me practically for any field of work but also helped me in expanding my career choice as it gave me a taste of how to juggle. It forced me to be more

**COMING FROM A HUMBLE BACKGROUND, *it was such a huge thing for all of us, and not something we expected.* MY PARENTS AND SISTER COULDN'T HAVE BEEN PROUDER**

day of my life. Norwich is a beautiful place and I had some awe-inspiring experiences there. The university campus and the cafes are so unique and the social life so good.

I got to interact with people from all around the world, which was so amazing as I got to share my stories and hear theirs too. Doing the MSc was quite intense for me, but it helped me achieve my goals.

I'm so grateful to Study UK, the British Council and the GREAT campaign for giving me this opportunity. It was truly a life-changing experience for me. I went

organised and it helped me develop and hone my time management skills (between course work and my professional life). It gave me valuable transferrable skills, such as professional communication skills, collaborating in a team, ability to prioritise and perform well under pressure. It also broadened my networking platform within the academic science community.

## What do you do now?

I work as a full time Customer Service Advisor at The Contact Company (TCC). ☺



# *Pining* FOR YORKSHIRE

Hollywood A-lister **CHRIS PINE** reflects on his exchange year at the University of Leeds, and how the experience in and out of the lecture theatre broadened his career horizons

**L**ife now for Hollywood movie star Chris Pine is a combination of many things – there’s the obvious wealth and stardom; the creative and dramatic talent that has seen him portray Captain James Kirk (*Star Trek*), Steve Trevor in the reprised *Wonder Woman* and title character Jack Ryan in Paramount’s eponymous \$60m blockbuster; he can even lay claim to being a pin-up, albeit mentions of this elicit only an uncomfortable laugh.

It’s all a far cry from student digs in Yorkshire, an English northern heartland whose natives are decorated and admired for their straight-talking, no-frills approach to life.

As impressive as the University of Leeds is, both academically and architecturally,

Pine’s decision to swap the sun-baked surrounds of Los Angeles for industrial city and sparse moorland surrounds – both rugged in their individual ways – has perhaps been one of the more surreal diversions made by a Tinseltown favourite.

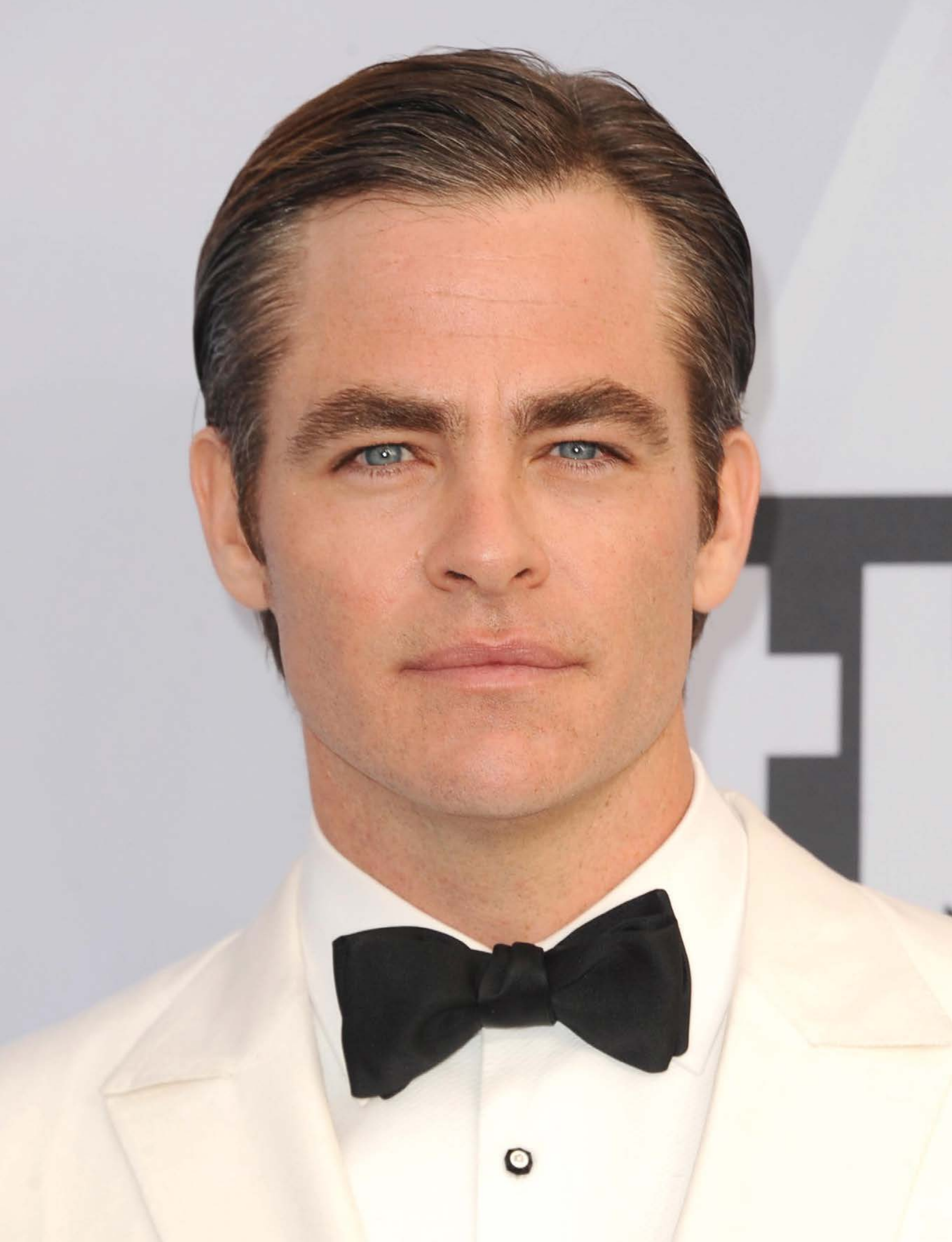
And yet, looking for a UK base in which to undertake his exchange-year English studies, the University of California student landed in a place that would challenge and enrich him in ways he looks back on as wholly positive.

These days, the idea of the Chris Pine mooching around Leeds at the turn of the millennium seems far removed from what the 40 year old’s life has become; and yet the actor recalls his experience with fondness, endorsing the thrill of studying abroad.

“To say I chose to study at Leeds and was determined to end up there is perhaps an example of an actor using a bit of creative and dramatic licence. In truth, my initial choices were for an exchange year in London or Glasgow. These were the places that all my tutors were talking about, and I think naturally overseas students focus in on the major cities in the UK, more out of habit and a bit of laziness. The fact I didn’t get accepted at those places meant I was looking at alternative locations to study, but ►

“I HAD REALLY GOT INTO DRAMA IN MY SECOND YEAR AT BERKELEY, *so Leeds University offered a lot in terms of activities* THAT REFLECTED MY INTERESTS IN THE CREATIVE ARTS”









Chris's new film *Wonder Woman 1984* is out now

“WHAT I FOUND OUT ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS *was not only was it one of the best in the country, but it was also ideally located:* THERE WAS SO MUCH MUSIC AND SOCIAL ACTIVITY – SO MUCH FOOD, DESIGN AND NATURE”

The actor enjoyed the freedom of study at the University of Leeds



looking back I don't think it could have worked out better for me.

“I had really gotten into drama in my second year in college at Berkeley, California, so Leeds University offered a lot in terms of activities that reflected my interest in creative arts, clubs and in societies.

“Additionally it was about the culture in and around the city – places like the Brudenell Social Club, like the small cinemas that were scattered around where we lived in the Hyde Park area.

“Coming to England was such an easy choice for me as an exchange student. Even back as a teenager I had such a passion for travel, for reading, for studying. What I found out about the University of Leeds was not only was it one of the best in the country, but it was also ideally located, and being in Yorkshire, with that gritty, wholesome personality that Yorkshire people have, there was so much music and social activity – so much food, design, nature, stunning scenery.

“Sure, you're at university to study, but Leeds presented itself in such a way that you could do what was necessary work-wise, as well as embedding yourself in a vibe that was so different to what I would have experienced had I studied in London, for instance.

“Student life was, as you can imagine, quite lively, but I never really had the stamina to be a big drinker. I could always cook, so would invariably sort Italian food for my housemates,

with Bolognese being my speciality. I also invested a lot in local specialities – bread, pasties, Yorkshire cakes. I've always been blessed with a metabolism that is like a child's, so mostly I could eat whatever I wanted without any negative effects.

“In academic terms, Leeds offered students a lot of freedom to do their own thing and style their own type of degree, and I thought that was cool – that is a real feature of higher education in the UK. Of course we had set tasks and study processes, but there was a lot of trust built into what we were doing, and I loved that, particularly as I didn't know what I wanted to do with my life and never felt pushed down a specific path.

“At that age, you're constantly on the lookout for inspiration as far as a career goes, and I think you travel to some places

expecting to find it. What Leeds taught me, as an institution, was that there wasn't a rush to decide. The personality of the university is to develop people, not careers. I never wanted to be an actor; I never even thought about it as a potential 'thing' until my second year, and first and foremost it was just a way to make friends.

“I think when you go abroad to study people imagine it's the language that is the barrier, and I guess if you are coming from a non-English speaking country then it will be; but for me it was much more about dealing with the Leeds accent, and that was a lot of fun... it was like nothing I had heard before!

“Leeds was a great time in my life. It was all totally different to studying in the US – a lot rawer, a lot more history, a lot more personality. I loved it – it was a great year in a great place.” 🍷



## Kingswood School & Kingswood Prep School, Bath

Kingswood School, Lansdown Road, Bath BA1 5RG  
Prep: College Road, Lansdown, Bath, BA1 5SD



**Headteacher:** Prep: Mr Mark Brearey. Senior: Mr Andrew Gordon-Brown  
**Admissions:** [admissions@kingswood.bath.sch.uk](mailto:admissions@kingswood.bath.sch.uk)  
Prep: +44 (0)1225 734 460, Senior: +44(0)1225 734 200

**GENDER/AGES:** Boys and girls, 9 months-18 years

**FEES:** Nursery (day) from £65, weekly from £316 (half-day sessions also available), pre-prep (day) from £63, pre-prep (weekly) from £316 (half-day sessions also available), prep (day) from £3,516, prep (weekly) from £6,964, prep (full boarding) from £8,291 per term, senior (day) from £5,338, senior (weekly) from £8,391, senior (full boarding) from £9,605 per term

**TYPICAL CLASS SIZE:** Prep - 12-15, senior - 15-18, sixth form - 12-15

**FAITH:** Kingswood welcomes pupils from all faiths and none

**MOTTO:** *In The Right Way Quickly*

**ENTRANCE PROCEDURE:** Non-selective entry into the nursery and reception. For years 3 to 8, children sit admissions papers in English, maths and non-verbal reasoning. In addition, years 9 and 10 also take science and a foreign language. An interview and references from the current school are also required. Kingswood Sixth Form candidates will be invited to interview. Offers will be made based on the interview, predicted GCSE results and current school reports.

**School philosophy:** Founder John Wesley's philosophy was: "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can." This belief is still shared amongst the Kingswood community.

**Academic record:** Kingswood has been ranked in the top 5% nationally for added-value, and academic results are consistently excellent. 98% of students go on to university and more than three-quarters achieved the A\*-B grades required for entry into Russell Group universities.

**Extracurricular:** Kingswood believes that every individual has talents to be discovered and nurtured. With an extensive co-curricular programme offering more than 100 activities a week, pupils achieve astonishing successes as they constantly progress well beyond their natural potential.

**Notable achievements and alumni:** There are many former pupils at Kingswood School who have been extremely successful in their chosen field. For example, David Blow was an influential British biophysicist, Sir Kenneth Cross was a Senior Royal Air Force commander, Roger Saul founded the Mulberry fashion label and celebrated actor Tim Curry has appeared in a diverse range of film, television, and theatre productions.

[www.kingswood.bath.sch.uk](http://www.kingswood.bath.sch.uk)

**Open Days: Please see the website for details.**



PREP 356 SENIOR 806

## Tettenhall College, Wolverhampton

Wood Road, Tettenhall, Wolverhampton, WV6 8QX



**Head Teacher:** Mr Christopher McAllister  
**Admissions:** [admissions@tettcoll.co.uk](mailto:admissions@tettcoll.co.uk)  
+44 (0)1902 751 119

**GENDER/AGES:** Boys and girls, 2-18 years

**FEES:** Junior boarding from £6,103-£7,709; senior and sixth form boarding from £8,791-£11,060; flexi boarding from £210 extra a week; reception to sixth-form day from £2,552-£4,858. Junior boarding and sibling discount rates are available

**TYPICAL CLASS SIZE:** Senior - 18, sixth form - less than 18

**FAITH:** Christian **MOTTO:** *Timor Domini Initium Sapientiae*

**ENTRANCE PROCEDURE:** Non-selective from pre-school age up to year 11, but selective for sixth form. Scholarship and bursary assessments are available. Senior Entrance and Scholarship Assessment week is in January 2021 and Sixth Form Entrance and Scholarship Assessment week is in February 2021.

**School philosophy:** The school is built on a core vision and values through Tettenhall's overarching mission for every pupil to release their potential and vision to provide an outstanding personalised education. It has a mission to nurture pupils to achieve their potential and discover their unique talents, to strive for excellence and foster self-belief. Pupils have the freedom to evolve creatively and develop future goals. The school community both fosters a safe and secure family environment and cultivates emotional intelligence.

**Academic record:** 100% of pupils were awarded five or more GCSEs at Grades 9-4, including English and maths. More than 40% of the cohort achieved 10 or more GCSEs. Notably, two pupils who sat certain GCSEs early in Year 10, individually achieved an impressive 11 GCSEs in total. In addition, a healthy proportion of pupils gained top grades 9-7 among their results.

**Extracurricular:** A full extended day programme is offered to senior school pupils. Wraparound care is offered in the preparatory school. The school runs an extensive sports programme for all ages, from swimming to squash, seasonal sports to fencing, with regular sporting fixtures and inter-school matches organised too. The performing arts (music and drama) and art departments attract and nurture incredible talent too, winning pupils numerous accolades and entrances into specialist colleges and universities.

**Notable achievements and alumni:** Tettenhall College is rightly proud of its OTs from all eras, looking back to great achievements through the decades, from Olympians and politicians to, more recently, outstanding bravery shown in former pupils' humanitarian work overseas.

[www.tettenhallcollege.co.uk](http://www.tettenhallcollege.co.uk)

**Open Days: Please contact the school's registrar to discuss private tours, taster days or to register for one of the scheduled open mornings**



400



# CLICK START YOUR FUTURE

From learning remotely to career advice, British ed tech solutions are leading the global IT response to Covid-19, says **ELLA BUJOK**



**Ella Bujok is Managing Director of CASCAID & Xello UK**

One of the rising trends in 2020 across education was increased reliance on technology. Many schools closed their doors in the spring and their educators innovated to offer a blended-learning curriculum that would support students in the classroom, as well as remote settings.

E-learning platforms and software became critical solutions to ensure continuity of learning, and while technology will never match the experience of classroom learning, this focus on technology shined a light on some of the innovative and impactful resources that might have been overlooked before. School leaders have responded by affording curriculum leads to seek out new solutions to support their students.

Now more than ever, we need to invest time and money into adequately preparing students for the changing landscape of careers that lie before them. Focus should be given to the development of transferable skills across the curriculum. Helping students to develop a strong sense of self, through fun, age-appropriate assessments and skill-building lessons, also supports them to become comfortable with the skills needed to overcome transitions they will face now and in later life.

School leaders have told us that students are feeling demotivated about their futures, which has, in turn, put great pressure on teachers and parents everywhere to find innovative ways to reignite student excitement and re-establish that connection between what they learn in the classroom and how that impacts their futures.

## AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH

Xello is an online future-planning program that is built to engage students. As digital natives, students expect an experience to rival the sorts of apps they engage with on a regular basis. Xello can be accessed by students at schools that subscribe to the program, via desktop, laptop or mobile devices, enabling them to plan for their future 24/7.

In order to encourage students to take control of their futures, Xello focuses on four key pillars to successful future planning: build self-knowledge, explore options, create a plan, and learn and reassess.

The program includes career profiles, UK college, university and subject profiles with rich photography and real-world interviews that provide an authentic glimpse into their future. In addition, Xello has a range of quiz-style assessments that help students reflect on their

interests, likes, dislikes, and their unique personality style before they dive into how this self-knowledge relates to possible careers or future pathways.

Tying it all together are interactive, online lessons that deliver personalised learning based on each student's activity in Xello. These lessons are fun and engaging and encourage students to practise deeper, more meaningful reflection as well as to build 21st century skills for their future.

## MITIGATING THE RISK

In February last year, Turkey went into a national lockdown in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The British Embassy School of Ankara (BESA) found itself, like so many other schools around the world, suddenly operating a remote teaching and learning schedule.

Timothy Wilson, International Curriculum Coordinator at BESA had been looking into ed-tech solutions to support his students with careers education, information, and guidance. His goal was to obtain a program with a modern design that would engage students and one that incorporated at-a-glance reporting that would save time in evidencing BESA's efforts to meet the Gatsby Benchmarks\*.

Tim selected Xello as his preferred solution just ahead of the lockdown period and was able to onboard students just in time. "We made the leap from classroom sessions to remote learning, and now we have 76 per cent of our students using Xello to explore what makes them unique and channel that towards creating their successful futures." 🗨️

Visit [www.cascaid.co.uk/xello](http://www.cascaid.co.uk/xello) for more information or contact the team at CASCAID [theteam@cascaid.co.uk](mailto:theteam@cascaid.co.uk) for more details

MANY SCHOOLS CLOSED THEIR DOORS IN THE SPRING *and educators innovated to offer a blended-learning curriculum* THAT WOULD SUPPORT STUDENTS IN THE CLASSROOM, AS WELL AS REMOTE SETTINGS

\* THE GATSBY BENCHMARKS ARE A FRAMEWORK OF EIGHT GUIDELINES THAT DEFINE THE BEST CAREERS PROVISION IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS.



## Badminton School, Bristol

Westbury Road, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol BS9 3BA



**Headteacher:** Mrs Rebecca Tear

**Admissions:** admissions@badmintonschool.co.uk  
+44 (0)117 905 5271

**GENDER/AGES:** Girls, 3-18 years

**FEES:** Nursery £28.50 per session (there are two sessions in a day), junior (day) from £3,400-£5,700, weekly and flexi boarding please contact us for more information, full boarding from £7,750-£8,900 per term, senior (day) from £5,700, weekly boarder from £10,700, flexi boarding please contact us for more information, full boarding from £11,350-£13,250 per term

**TYPICAL CLASS SIZE:** Prep - 16, senior - 18, sixth form - 2-12

**FAITH:** Non-denominational

**MOTTO:** *Pro Omnibus Quisque Pro Deo Omnes.*

**ENTRANCE PROCEDURE:** Please see our website for details.

**School Philosophy:** At Badminton, we offer a holistic approach to education; to put it simply, we encourage the girls to get hands on with their subjects, ask questions and really get stuck in. Our focus is on nurturing the girls' natural curiosity and fuelling their passion for learning rather than simply 'fill them up' with knowledge. What is special about Badminton? It is impossible to narrow it down to one thing, but our unwavering sense of community is something that really needs to be experienced to be believed. We're fortunate that the size of our campus and community gives an unparalleled homely feel to the school, in which every girl is known by all. With over 35 nationalities represented within our close-knit community, girls develop an understanding of the viewpoints of others and an appreciation of the school's international outlook.

**Academic Record:** 90% A\*-B at A-level and 85% A\*-A/9-7 at GCSE in 2020.

**Extracurricular:** Some of the extra-curricular activities on offer at Badminton have an academic bias, such as ICT Programming Club and Young Engineering. Others allow the girls to pursue their talents and interests, these include symphony orchestra, debating, cross stitch, technical theatre club, Model United Nations, Leiths School of Cookery and Young Enterprise. Health and wellbeing activities include running club, fencing, judo, dance club, DofE, Pilates and CrossFit.

**Notable Achievements and Alumni:** Alumni include Rosamund Pike (actress), Dame Iris Murdoch (novelist), Indira Gandhi (first and only female Prime Minister of India to date), Mary Fedden (artist).

[www.badmintonschool.co.uk](http://www.badmintonschool.co.uk)

**Open Days: nursery & junior school: 10 Feb 2021**  
**senior & sixth form: 26 Feb 2021**  
**whole school: 3 May 2021**



470

## St. Paul's School, Brazil

Rua Juquía, 166, Jardim Paulistano, São Paulo SP 01440-903



**Headteacher:** Titus Edge

**Admissions:** sra@stpauls.br  
+55 11 3087-3399

**GENDER/AGES:** Boys and girls, 3-18 years

**FEES:** Nursery £1,045, pre-prep £1,045, prep £1,045, senior £1,320 per month

**TYPICAL CLASS SIZE:** Prep - 20, senior - 18-20, sixth form - 15-20

**FAITH:** Non-denominational

**MOTTO:** *Manibus Potentia Studium Animis*

**ENTRANCE PROCEDURE:** Entrance assessment and interviews.

**School philosophy:** St. Paul's blends its long tradition in academic excellence with a dynamic and forward-looking approach to education. Bringing together the very best of British and Brazilian values and culture, the school nurtures excellence in every pupil, developing their intellectual, spiritual, physical and emotional awareness. This is achieved through a programme of academic rigour, a high level of pastoral care, a wide range of curricular and extracurricular opportunities and a strong sense of community. As such, pupils feel secure, confident and able to meet challenges and develop their interests and talents in a fulfilling way.

**Academic record:** The school's curriculum has its foundation in the English National Curriculum, incorporating the International Primary Curriculum, Cambridge IGCSEs and the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma programme. The highest academic standards are upheld, and pupils are encouraged to reflect on and monitor their progress. The community works together to support everyone's achievements, meaning that pupils leave equipped to enter the best universities in the UK, US, Brazil or elsewhere.

**Extracurricular:** The school offers a full enrichment programme, which includes a wide range of clubs and societies, as well as opportunities to develop skills in the arts, music and sports. This underpins its aim to instil a lifelong love of learning, self-development and self-confidence in all pupils.

**Notable achievements and alumni:** St. Paul's School is the first in South America to be recognised by the UK government as a British school overseas. It has undertaken a continuous programme of building works over the past 20 years, including an extensive refurbishment of the original school building, the creation of a sixth form centre, an underground sports centre and an academic centre, learning resources suite, music and arts facilities and science laboratories. St. Paul's is recognised as an Apple Distinguished School and a Microsoft Showcase School.

[www.stpauls.br](http://www.stpauls.br)

**Open Mornings: Visit the school**  
**website for the next available date.**



1,161



# STARTING *your* JOURNEY

Senior Education Consultant at Carfax Education,  
**SOPHIE OAKES**, gives an overview of all of  
the factors to consider when choosing a British  
education for your child

**A**s we all know, it's wise to think ahead when it comes to planning your child's education. I regularly tell parents – the sooner the better. If, for example, you're planning to send your child to one of the top senior schools in the UK starting at the age of 13, you may well need to have registered your child for that school when he or she's 10 years old. The deadlines are strict and if you miss them, then it can be very difficult to make a late application, if at all. However, that applies to only a few schools and there are often later entry points that you can consider.

## **Senior and sixth form**

For sixth form education which spans the last two academic school years from ages 16 to 18, the deadlines for registration are generally between June and October the year before starting the following September. Pupils will generally sit admissions tests in the November and receive

their offers the first week of December. When considering a school for this stage of education, it's important to consider which curriculum will best suit your child. The most common choices will be between A-levels (three subjects) or the International Baccalaureate (six subjects): some schools offer both curriculums, but many focus solely on A-levels.

Entry assessments for different schools in the UK vary according to the age of entry and are often unique to each school. If you're applying internationally, schools will need to assess the level of spoken and written English. Some schools obviously require a high level of English for pupils to be able to access the curriculum while other schools have strong additional English support and are happy to accept a much lower level of English. The younger the student, the less likely it is the school will need to see a high level of English language skills. There's such a wealth of choice of educational opportunities that there is genuinely a school for everyone. It's worth talking to a professional to find ►

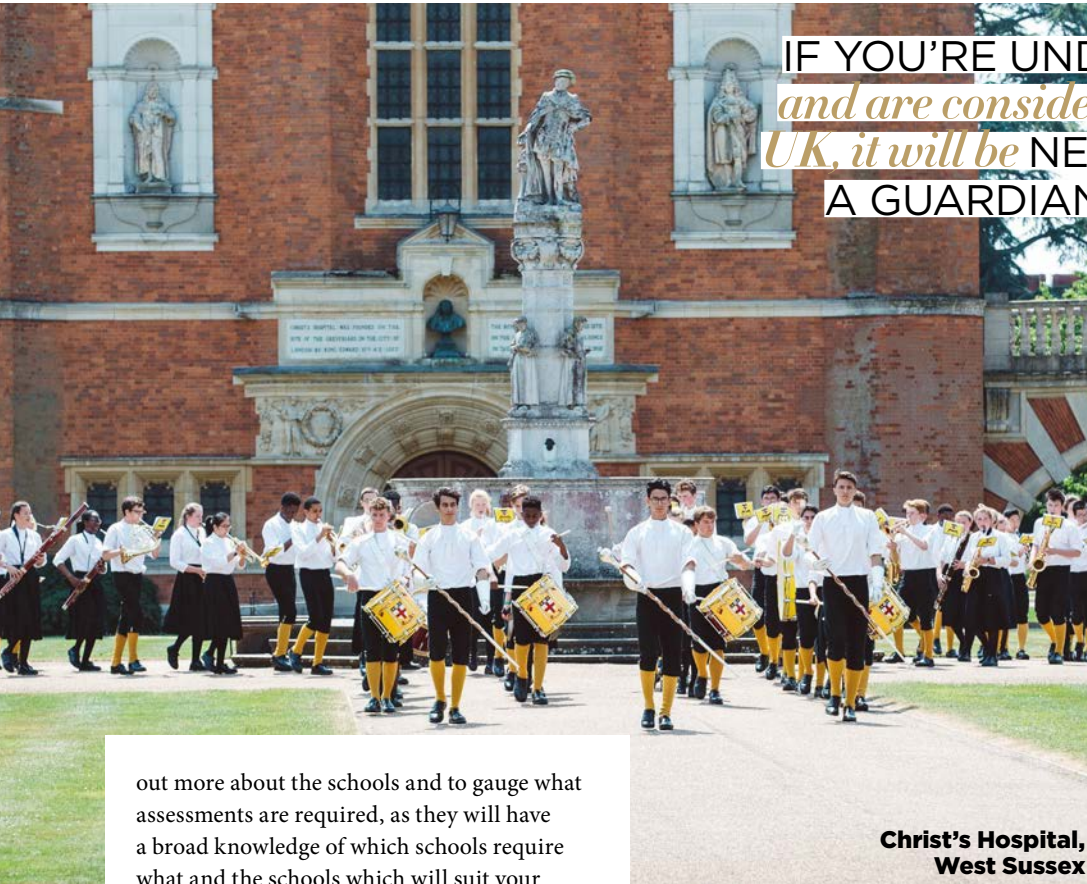




ENTRY ASSESSMENT FOR DIFFERENT  
SCHOOLS IN THE UK *vary according to the  
age of entry and are often unique to each school.*  
IF YOU'RE APPLYING INTERNATIONALLY,  
SCHOOLS WILL NEED TO ASSESS THE  
LEVEL OF SPOKEN AND WRITTEN ENGLISH







IF YOU'RE UNDER THE AGE OF 18  
*and are considering boarding in the UK, it will be* NECESSARY TO HAVE  
A GUARDIAN BASED IN THE UK

out more about the schools and to gauge what assessments are required, as they will have a broad knowledge of which schools require what and the schools which will suit your child's needs and abilities the best.

If you're under the age of 18 and are considering boarding in the UK it will be necessary to have a guardian based in the UK. There are many guardianship companies that can provide this service for your child, but it's important to make sure they're accredited by a governing body such as the BSA or Aegis UK, which upholds safeguarding and welfare issues of international boarding students.

## Universities

There's a central application portal for universities called UCAS, which acts as an intermediary between students and universities during the application process. Students can apply to up to five UK universities via UCAS but as you submit only one personal statement describing why you want to study a particular degree, it makes sense to apply to courses that are similar or aligned.

To gain a better understanding of where you might want to study, it's sensible to consider all the factors that are important to you in making a university choice. All universities will offer open days either on campus or currently these can be accessed virtually via websites and one-to-one meetings. These are very worthwhile and offer an insight into the courses on offer and that all-important student experience. Each course will have certain academic requirements, and for international students there will be a language requirement,

generally in the form of an IELTS or TOEFL test to determine your level of written, spoken and listening English fluency.

Applications are made between September 2021 and the final admissions deadline is 15 January, 2022 for entry in September 2022. If you're considering applying to either Oxford or Cambridge or a medical degree (including veterinary sciences) then the application deadline is 15 October, 2021. Offers are made conditional on academic results, between January to April before a September start.

## Playing it safe during a pandemic

Independent boarding schools have become havens of safety during the coronavirus pandemic. They are, in themselves, bubbles and have managed the threat of the virus extremely well. Most senior schools have the ability to isolate any child who is showing symptoms and they have kept their campuses open over half term and weekends when exerts would have taken place so that international parents don't have to worry about their child having to leave the grounds.

The universities reopened their doors at the start of the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic. Initially, the response was slightly haphazard, however rapid on-site testing and isolation are now under control. Each university has its own practices, but these are perceived to be working. 🍷

Christ's Hospital,  
West Sussex

## VISA REQUIREMENTS

As of 1 January, EU and non-EU students will have very similar visa routes to study in the UK

### CHILD STUDENT VISA: SCHOOL

If you're between four and 17 years of age and applying to study at an independent school in the UK, you'll need to get a Child Student Visa. These can be obtained up to six months before entering the UK and are replacing the current Tier 4 visas. You must have an offer of acceptance from the school you wish to study at before you can apply for the visa.

### STUDENT VISA: UNIVERSITY

If you're aged 16 or over and wish to study at higher education level, you can apply for a student visa through the Student Route. This is replacing the Tier 4 visa route. You can apply for this once the university has issued you a CAS (Confirmation of Acceptance) form. There is a fee to make this application and there's also a fee to be able to access the NHS (National Health Service). If you're on a Tier 4 visa, these are still valid.

### GRADUATE VISA: A TWO-YEAR WORK EXPERIENCE VISA

From this summer, international students will be able to benefit from two years' work experience through the new Graduate Route. The Graduate Route is a new UK post-study work visa enabling those students who have completed a degree at undergraduate level or above to stay and work in the UK. This route requires a new visa application and will include the payment of a visa fee and health surcharge as per above, [www.gov.uk/student-visa](https://www.gov.uk/student-visa)





## Repton School, Derbyshire

Derbyshire, DE65 6FH



**Head Teacher:** Mark J Semmence

**Admissions:** [admissions@repton.org.uk](mailto:admissions@repton.org.uk)  
+44 (0)1283 559 200

**GENDER/AGES:** Boys and girls, 3-18 years

**FEES:** Prep (day) reception from £3,337 per term, up to year 7/8 from £6,819 per term, (boarding) from £7,470 per term. Senior boarding from £12,261 per term, (day) from £9,096 per term

**TYPICAL CLASS SIZE:** 8-20 per class, depending on subject and year group.

**FAITH:** Repton School has strong Christian roots, however, the school doesn't select for entry on the basis of religious belief, and it offers the opportunity for pupils to practise their own faiths

**MOTTO:** *Porta Vacat Culpa.*

**ENTRANCE PROCEDURE:** Please visit the website for details.

**School philosophy:** Repton is a flourishing school with a clear sense of purpose and momentum. As one of the country's pre-eminent co-ed day and boarding schools for ages 3-18, Repton provides an exceptional broad-based education, blending heritage with the pursuit of excellence in a 21st century context, offering world-class facilities as well as high quality teaching and pastoral care. It has a combined total of just over 1,000 pupils between the

prep and senior schools, making it large enough to achieve excellence in and out of the classroom, yet small enough for individuals to flourish. The school's considerable strengths were recognised in the 2020 ISI Inspection, which found Repton to be 'Excellent' in every area. The inspectors judged that Repton pupils 'achieve highly and make excellent progress across the wide range of academic and extracurricular opportunities available to them'.

**Academic record:** Almost all Reptonians proceed on to study at university; in 2020, 22.8% pupils achieved an A\* and 54.8% of pupils achieved A\*A at A-level, with six pupils securing Oxbridge places. There was similar success at GCSE/iGCSE, with 27% of grades being awarded at 9 and 70.5% 9-7.

**Extracurricular:** Repton is recognised as one of the top sporting schools in the UK and excels at hockey (more than 40 national titles), football, tennis, cricket and swimming. The school also has an outstanding choir which performs annually at St Paul's Cathedral, as well as flourishing drama and art departments, with many pupils gaining admission to top-tier universities in the UK and Ivy League institutions in the US.

**Notable achievements and alumni:** CB Fry (international sportsman, politician and diplomat), Harold Abrahams (Olympic champion and *Chariots of Fire* inspiration), Roald Dahl (author), Jeremy Clarkson (broadcaster), Adrian Newey (F1 engineer), Georgie Twigg (Olympic gold medallist).

[www.repton.org.uk](http://www.repton.org.uk)

**Open Days: Personal online school tours are available to show families what a Repton education can offer.**



1,012



# How to use this guide

This guide provides an introduction to the world-renowned British education system for overseas students and their parents. As well as looking at every stage in a British educational career – from early childhood to gaining a master's degree at university – we provide a practical account of the life young people enjoy as British students. With full details on many of the schools and universities spread across the country welcoming international students, we highlight the most important information a parent or student will need to know about an individual school or university using a series of easily-recognisable symbols to help those readers less familiar with English.

## كيفية استخدام هذا الدليل

يوفر هذا الدليل مقدمة لنظام التعليم البريطاني المشهور عالمياً للطلاب الأجانب وأولياء أمورهم. بالإضافة إلى النظر في كل مرحلة من مراحل الحياة التعليمية البريطانية - من الطفولة المبكرة إلى الحصول على درجة الماجستير في الجامعة - نحن نقدم سرداً عملياً للحياة التي يتمتع بها الشباب كطلاب بريطانيين. من خلال التفاصيل الكاملة حول العديد من المدارس والجامعات المنتشرة في جميع أنحاء البلاد التي ترحب بالطلاب الدوليين، فإننا نسلط الضوء على أهم المعلومات التي سيحتاج إليها الوالد أو الطالب لمعرفة مدرسة أو جامعة فردية باستخدام سلسلة من الرموز التي يسهل التعرف عليها لمساعدة هؤلاء القراء أقل دراية باللغة الإنجليزية.

## 指南使用手册

本指南为海外学生及其父母介绍了享誉世界的英国教育系统。我们提供了英国教育产业从早期教育到大学硕士的详细介绍，以及来英留学的生活实用说明。手册中介绍了英国所有招收国际学生的学校的详细信息。为了更好的服务英语非母语者，本手册使用了简易的语言和符号。

NURSERY (2-4)

حضانة

托儿所

PRE-PREP (4-7)

قبل الإعدادية (تمهيدية)

السنين الأولى (3-4 إلى 7-8 سنوات)

PREP (8-11/13)

إعدادية

الصفوف (7-8 إلى 11-13 سنوات) من المدارس الابتدائية إلى المتوسطة

SENIOR (11/13-18)

متوسطة

الصفوف (11-13 إلى 18 سنة، التعليم الثانوي)

SIXTH FORM (16-18)

الصف السادس (ثانوية)

الصف السادس (آخر سنتين من التعليم الثانوي، 16-18 سنة) للطلاب المؤهلين للقبول في الجامعة، وفقاً لنتائجهم في امتحان A-level

UNIVERSITY (18+)

جامعة

جامعة

FULL BOARDING

داخلية كاملة

الترتيب الكامل

FLEXI-BOARDING

نصف داخلية

الترتيب المرن

DAY

داخلية ليوم

الترتيب اليومي

RURAL

ريفي

الريف

CITY

مدينة

المدن

% OF UNIVERSITY ENTRANTS

67%

% الوافدين إلى الجامعة

نسبة الطلاب الجدد في الجامعة

BOYS

أولاد

الذكور

GIRLS

بنات

الإناث

CO-ED

مختلط

الجنس المختلط

1,000

NUMBER OF PUPILS

عدد التلاميذ

عدد الطلاب

52

greatbritisheducationmag.com



## Cranleigh School, Surrey

Horseshoe Lane, Cranleigh, Surrey, GU6 8QQ



**Headteacher:** Mr Martin Reader MA (Oxon), MPhil, MBA

**Admissions:** [admissions@cranleigh.org](mailto:admissions@cranleigh.org)

+44 (0)1483 273 666

**GENDER/AGES:** Boys and girls, 13-18 years

**FEES:** Day from £32,370, weekly from £39,330 annually

**TYPICAL CLASS SIZE:** Senior – 20, sixth form – 10

**FAITH:** Church of England; welcomes pupils of all faiths, and none

**MOTTO:** *Ex Cultu Robur (From Culture Comes Strength)*

**ENTRANCE PROCEDURE:** Holistic review with ISEB test, assessment and interview. Entry at 13+ and 16+, with a wide range of scholarships available. For more details, visit the website's admissions pages.

**School philosophy:** The school's mission is to challenge and inspire every one of its pupils by broadening their horizons, enriching their learning and supporting them throughout each step of their journey. Cranleigh aims to provide young people with the strength to succeed; the wisdom to make informed choices; resilience in the face of failure or difficulty and the insight to recognise their privilege. This empowers them to shape the future culture of the world through lives of service and leadership.

**Academic record:** The school usually sees outstanding GCSE grades. In 2020, 24% of all grades were a 9 and 48% of all grades being 9/8. 100% of Cranleigh students gained five or more GCSEs at 9 to 4 grade and 79% of all pupils achieved 9-7 in the core subjects of Maths and English. At A-level, 77% of grades at A\*-B. Almost 40% of A-level students gained A\*/A in two or more subjects, with more than 60% achieving all A\*-B. Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) results were also excellent, with 80% graded at A\*-B.

**Extracurricular:** Music, drama and art are at the heart of Cranleigh life and as a result are scheduled for the middle of the day to be enjoyed and savoured, rather than tagged on to the end of a busy day. From sailing and Socratic Society to debating and the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme, the school offers more clubs, activities and horizon-broadening lectures than there's space to list here! Free time is also committed to community service.

**Notable achievements and alumni:** Cranleigh is Surrey's most mature co-educational boarding environment. Notable alumni include Hollywood actress Julia Ormond, actor Michael Cochrane, film producer Eric Fellner, playwright Patrick Marber, historian Andrew Roberts and former High Court judge, Sir Nicholas Blake.

[www.cranleigh.org](http://www.cranleigh.org)

**Open Days: Regular Saturdays throughout the year;  
check the website for details and to book your place.**





## Stonyhurst, Lancashire

Stonyhurst, Clitheroe, Lancashire, BB7 9PZ



**Headteacher:** Stonyhurst College: John Browne  
 Stonyhurst St Mary's Hall Preparatory School: Ian Murphy  
**Admissions:** [admissions@stonyhurst.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@stonyhurst.ac.uk)  
 +44 (0)1254 827 073

**GENDER/AGES:** Boys and girls, 3-18 years

**FEES:** Nursery from £20.60 per half day session, pre-prep from £9,075, prep (day) from £12,810, weekly boarding from £23,250, full boarding from £27,150, flexi boarding from £45 per night, college/senior (day) from £22,550, weekly boarding from £30,750, full boarding from £35,850

**TYPICAL CLASS SIZE:** Prep - 15-18, senior - 10-15 (subject dependent), sixth form - 10 (subject dependent)

**FAITH:** Catholic (Jesuit) **MOTTO:** *Quant Je Puis (As Much As I Can)*

**School philosophy:** Inspired by the beautiful Stonyhurst estate and the heritage of the world's oldest continuous Jesuit school, pupils pursue academic excellence alongside spiritual and personal growth. Stonyhurst seeks to enable each individual to thrive by helping them find, develop and use their talents; endowing them with leadership qualities for the future.

**Academic record:** The school's 2020 International Baccalaureate pass rate is 100% (as a comparison, the world average in 2019 was 77.8%. Stonyhurst's

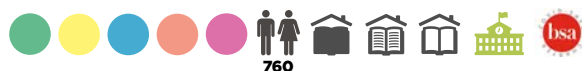
most successful candidate achieved 44 points (out of a maximum of 45 points), placing them in the top 1% of worldwide candidates and equivalent to 4 A\* at A-level. More than one-third (38.5%) of pupils achieved 38 or more points, equivalent to 2A\*s and 1A at A-level. The average point score is 36, compared with the worldwide average of 29.9. The A-level pass rate is 100%. Almost half of all entries (48.2%) were awarded A\*- A and 72.5% were awarded A\*-B 20 candidates achieved all A\* and A grades. At GCSE level, 19% of pupils achieved a grade 9. 40.2% achieved 9-8. 63.2% achieved 9-7. 98.7% achieved 9-4. Two pupils achieved 9 grade 9s and one achieved 8 grade 9s

**Extracurricular:** Stonyhurst pupils achieve on the sports field, as well as in music, drama and dance. The school has a national reputation for rugby and, as a fully co-ed school, a very strong reputation for hockey and netball. Pupils have success in outdoor pursuits such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award, fell running and shooting. The Stonyhurst Combined Cadet Force is one of the oldest and most distinguished in the country. Our sports centre includes a golf course and world class, LTA-registered tennis dome.

**Notable alumni:** Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (author), Mark Thompson (former Director General of the BBC and CEO of *The New York Times*) and England Rugby World Cup winners Will Greenwood and Kyran Bracken.

[www.stonyhurst.ac.uk](http://www.stonyhurst.ac.uk)

**Open Days: Stonyhurst St Mary's Hall - 6 March 2021; Stonyhurst College - 13 March 2021; Stonyhurst St Mary's Hall - 3 May 2021.**



760





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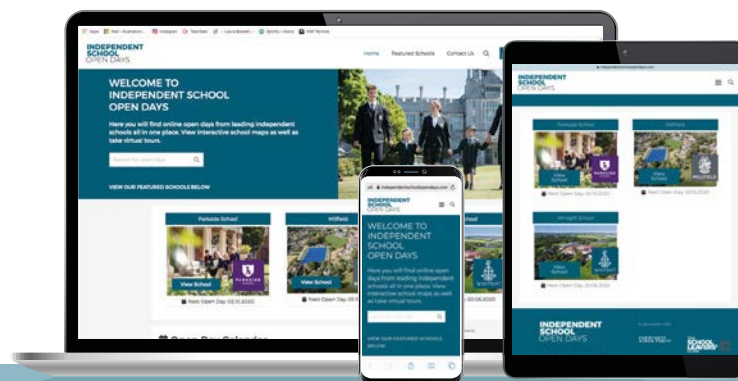
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## Queen Anne's School, Berkshire

Henley Road, Caversham, Reading, Berkshire RG4 6DX



**Headteacher:** Julia Harrington

**Admissions:** [admissions@qas.org.uk](mailto:admissions@qas.org.uk)  
+44 (0)118 918 7333

**GENDER/AGES:** Girls, 11-18 years

**FEES:** Senior (day) from £8,370, flexi boarding from three or four nights £12,665, flexi boarding from two nights £12,010, full boarding from £13,325 per term

**TYPICAL CLASS SIZE:** Senior – 8-20

**FAITH:** Queen Anne's is part of a Church of England Foundation, but accepts students of all faiths and none

**MOTTO:** *Kind Hearts, Fierce Minds and Strong Spirits.*

**ENTRANCE PROCEDURE:** Our 11+ and 13+ assessment day takes place in October, prior to Common Entrance in January. All girls must sit the 11+ or 13+ Common Entrance examinations, which take place in the January of the year of entry.

**School philosophy:** Set in 35 acres and just a short walk from the River Thames, Queen Anne's School in Caversham is an independent boarding and day school for girls. The school prepares more than 450 students every year for an ever-changing world through an exciting and constantly-evolving education, steeped in excellence and innovation. The cutting-edge curriculum and outstanding teaching is underpinned by BrainCanDo, the psychology and

neuroscience research programme founded by headmistress Julia Harrington. "You can't teach, guide or inspire a teenager with any success unless you understand what stimulates their exuberant brains, or stalls and depresses them," says Mrs Harrington. "Our positive and inclusive approach to learning and behaviours helps each and every girl get the very best from themselves. It supports and inspires while at school, but also prepares them for successful and happy lives."

**Academic record:** In 2020, 100% of all GCSE candidates received 9-4 (A\*-C) grades with 50% of grades achieved at 9/8 (A\*) and 75% of grades at 9-7 (A\*- A). At A-level, 78% of grades received were A\*, A or B. Leavers went on to study at leading higher-education institutions including Manchester, UCL, Exeter, King's College London, Leeds, Durham, St Andrews, York and Nottingham, across a wide range of disciplines including politics, philosophy and economics (PPE), fashion management, medicine, law, physics with astrophysics and international business.

**Extracurricular:** With more than 100 co-curricular activities available, the school offers a holistic approach to the girls' learning, both in and outside the classroom. From animation and rowing to the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme and Tycoons in School, there's a wealth of opportunities for students to discover their passions and build on their strengths.

**www.qas.org.uk**

**Open Events: 5 March 2021, 10 June 2021 and 8 May 2021**  
**Book online at [qas.org.uk](http://qas.org.uk)**



430



## Mayfield, East Sussex

The Old Palace, Mayfield, East Sussex TN20 6PH



**Headteacher:** Miss Antonia Beary MA MPhil (Cantab), PGCE

**Admissions:** [registrar@mayfieldgirls.org](mailto:registrar@mayfieldgirls.org)  
+44 (0)1435 874642

**GENDER/AGES:** Girls, 11-18 years

**FEES:** Senior (day) from £7,280 per term, full boarding from £11,750 per term, flexi boarding from £60 per night.

**TYPICAL CLASS SIZE:** Senior - 16, Sixth Form - small classes

**FAITH:** Roman Catholic.

**MOTTO:** *Actions Not Words.*

**ENTRANCE PROCEDURE:** Mayfield assessments - please see website for details.

**School Philosophy:** Mayfield is a highly successful independent boarding and day school for girls aged 11 to 18. Founded in 1872, the School is set within the beautiful Sussex countryside, conveniently located within an hour of central London and with easy access to Gatwick and Heathrow airports. One of the School's greatest strengths is its proven ability to unlock and develop the unique potential and talent of each girl in an inspiring learning environment. Small classes, exemplary pastoral care, and a happy and vibrant community, ensure girls thrive and challenge themselves both inside and

outside the classroom. The School's ethos reflects its Catholic heritage and encourages integrity, generosity, compassion and courage within an inclusive community, which welcomes all. The skills, values, aspiration and resilience instilled in the girls prepares them to respond to the opportunities and challenges of the 21st century, whatever path they choose.

**Academic Record:** Mayfield's academic results regularly place it among the top schools in the country. Our innovative curriculum encourages questioning, reflection, creativity and the freedom to learn from mistakes. While maths and science are among our most popular and successful subjects at A-level, we have a first-class reputation for creativity and excel in the creative and performing arts. Pupils progress to prestigious universities, including Oxford and Cambridge, and increasingly to the US and Europe to study a wide range of subjects, with a regular stream of engineers, medics, vets, lawyers, economists, designers and architects.

**Extracurricular:** Mayfield girls benefit from a rich and diverse variety of activities beyond the classroom. From dance to debating, drama to music, art, textiles and ceramics to coding, as well as sports including cricket, fencing and first-class equestrian facilities, girls are challenged and supported to reach their full potential.

**[www.mayfieldgirls.org](http://www.mayfieldgirls.org)**

Open Mornings running each month. Visit [www.mayfieldgirls.org](http://www.mayfieldgirls.org)





## West Buckland School, Devon

West Buckland, Barnstaple, Devon EX32 0SX



**Headteacher:** Mr Phillip Stapleton

**Admissions:** admissions@westbuckland.com

+44 (0)1598 760 000

**GENDER/AGES:** Boys and girls, 3-18 years

**FEES:** Pre-prep (day) from £2,770-£2,990 inc. lunch, prep (day) from £3,490-£4,340, senior (day) from £5,325, full boarding from £8,650-£12,135 per term

**TYPICAL CLASS SIZE:** Prep: 16, senior - 18, sixth form - 10

**FAITH:** Christian, but welcomes all faiths or none

**MOTTO:** *Read and Reap*

**ENTRANCE PROCEDURE:** There's an entrance assessment and interview.

**School philosophy:** The school's values of courage, commitment, caring, creativity, confidence, critical thinking and curiosity run through every element of its educational life and students are expected to live by these values. West Buckland students are down-to-earth, resilient, hard-working and have a firm understanding of their place and responsibility in society.

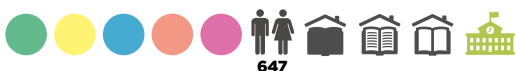
**Academic record:** By far the highest performing school in the region, the school's exam results consistently place it in the top 100 co-ed schools in the country. For the past 10 years, more than 75% of its A-level results have been graded A\*-B and more than 50% of its pupils go on to Russell Group universities. In 2019, 100% of GCSE students gained 5+ passes. West Buckland's excellent SEN department is housed within state-of-the-art facilities and run by an expert team of personalised-learning specialists.

**Extracurricular:** Its unique location means staff can offer a wide range of extracurricular activities including surfing, coasteering, diving and climbing, as well as more regular sports and activities. Academic enrichment is widespread, with lectures, academic clubs, film clubs, debating societies, life skills and charity committees. In addition to offering regular sport, its performance programmes in tennis, dance, hockey and netball are popular and result in a high level of achievement across the age groups.

**Notable achievements and alumni:** Shortlisted by *Independent School Parent* magazine for Boarding School of the Year 2020. Alumni include Brian Aldiss (author), Jonathan Edwards (triple-jump record holder), Jamie and Craig Overton (cricketers), RF Delderfield (author and playwright), Tim Wonnacott (TV presenter and antiques expert), George Friend (premiership footballer), Steve Ojomoh and Victor Ubogu (England rugby team) and Lizzie Kelly (professional jockey).

[www.westbuckland.com](http://www.westbuckland.com)

**Open Days:** There's a rolling programme of virtual open days.



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## The British School of Brussels (BSB), Belgium

Pater Dupierreuxlaan 1, 3080 Tervuren, Belgium



**Head Teacher:** Melanie Warnes

**Admissions:** admissions@britishschool.be

+32(0) 2 766 0430

**GENDER/AGES:** Boys and girls, 1-18 years

**FEES:** Early Childhood Centre (ECC) ages 1-3 years old, full day €105.00. Pre-Prep - Kindergarten (ages 3-4 years old) from €16,025 euros per year. Prep - Lower Primary School Reception to Year 2 (ages 4-7 years old) from €28,400, Upper Primary Years 3-6 (for ages 7-11) €29,825 per year. Senior - Secondary Years 7-9 (ages 11-14 years old) €35,400, Secondary Years 10-13 (ages 14-19 years old) €36,325 per year.

**TYPICAL CLASS SIZE:** Prep - 21 for bilingual English/French, 25 mainstream.

Maximum size but often lower, Senior - 21, Sixth Form - 14

**FAITH:** All faiths **MOTTO:** *Learning together, inspiring success*

**ENTRANCE PROCEDURE:** Application, interview with Head of Primary or Head of Secondary, once accepted offer of place issued.

**School philosophy:** BSB is an inclusive learning community for ages 1-18 years, with 1,350 students from 70 nationalities working together on its beautiful campus. Meeting the needs of expatriate families and local families seeking an international education, it aims to develop confident, caring and courageous individuals who engage actively, ethically and purposefully with the world. This community is supportive, welcoming and encourages respect for self and others.

**Academic record:** All children follow a British curriculum up to age 16. English is the main language of tuition, with the option to follow a bilingual programme. The curriculum offers the widest choice of any international school in Belgium for ages 16-18 years: A-levels, BTEC or the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma. In 2020, there was a 100% pass rate for all three. Graduates go on to some of the world's most prestigious universities.

**Extracurricular:** Surrounded by woodland, the campus has world-class facilities, such as a state-of-the-art sports centre with a 25m swimming pool, fitness suite, dance studio and gymnasium. Upgraded outdoor amenities include a bouldering wall, tennis and basketball courts, football and rugby pitches and a 300m running track. BSB also has recording studios, a theatre, design-technology rooms and nutrition kitchens.

**Notable achievements and alumni:** Celebrating 50 years in education. Only school in Belgium to be independently ranked as one of the top 100 schools in the world. Notable alumni include a heart surgeon and Olympic medalist.

[www.britishschool.be](http://www.britishschool.be)



1,350



## Kilgraston School, Perth

Bridge of Earn, Perth, PH2 9BQ



**Head Teacher:** Mrs Dorothy MacGinty

**Admissions:** [admissions@kilgraston.com](mailto:admissions@kilgraston.com)  
+44 (0)1738 812 257

**GENDER/AGES:** Boys and girls, 5-12 years, girls only in senior and Sixth Form.

**FEES:** Junior (day) from £3,850, full boarding from £8,540 per term, senior (day) from £6,545, full boarding from £11,175 per term, flexi boarding available, please contact the Bursar for more information [bursar@kilgraston.com](mailto:bursar@kilgraston.com).

**TYPICAL CLASS SIZE:** Prep – 10, senior – 16 (depends on subject), sixth form – 8 (dependent on subject).

**FAITH:** Kilgraston is a Catholic school and a member of the worldwide network of Sacred Heart schools, but welcomes pupils from all faiths or none.

**MOTTO:** *Cor Unum*

**ENTRANCE PROCEDURE:** Pupils who wish to join Kilgraston are required to attend an interview, which can be arranged via Skype with the Headmistress, and submission of a recent school report.

**School philosophy:** At the heart of the Kilgraston ethos is its focus on the concept of the whole person, through the five Sacred Heart goals: a living faith, personal growth, intellectual values, building community, and active social awareness. Its fundamental belief is that each pupil must feel valued,

respected and emotionally secure. As a result, its teachers work hard to ensure that each pupil matures intellectually and personally through all their years at Kilgraston. The distinctive Kilgraston experience is designed to develop young people who have a thirst for lifelong, independent learning and a vital commitment to making a real difference to the world around them.

**Academic record:** Kilgraston's educational performance places it as one of the very best schools in the UK, year after year. The education is world-class and learning takes pride of place. Individuality is encouraged to flourish and each person is empowered within the academic environment. In 2020, all of our leavers were accepted into their first choice of university with 48% of them going on to study STEM courses. In 2020, 100% of Kilgraston's leavers passed their Advanced Highers.

**Extracurricular:** The school supports 50 different activities, giving the pupils exceptional choice and a wealth of opportunities. These include initiatives that raise social awareness, from experiencing the aftermath of global catastrophes such as the Nepal earthquake to directly supporting the work of international NGOs.

**Notable achievements and alumni:** Kilgraston is the only school in Scotland with an on-site equestrian centre. Alumni include jockey Lucy Alexander, author Linda Strachan, hockey player Emily Dark and MSP Mairi Evans.

[www.kilgraston.com](http://www.kilgraston.com)

**Open Days: a virtual event at 11am on 6 February 2021.**  
Parents can register interest via [openday@kilgraston.com](mailto:openday@kilgraston.com)



250



# TAILORED TO YOU

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**P**arents and pupils turn to one-to-one tuition for a multitude of reasons but until recently, it has been an unfamiliar concept for some. Will it work? Will my child be engaged? How can tuition complement traditional schooling? Here, based on its long experience of delivering one-to-one tuition across the globe, Carfax Education shares some of the benefits of private tuition and highlights why it could be a great option for your child.

**Personalised tuition:** The most common reason families opt for a private tuition solution is personalisation of the course. Whether the pupil is full-time at a tutorial college, such as Carfax College Oxford, taking after-school lessons in their home, or working with an online tutor, pupils benefit from personalised learning programmes. Courses can be adapted to each pupil's learning style, interests and goals. The increased focus that one-to-one tuition promotes allows tutors to dedicate time and effort to ensuring that each child unlocks their academic potential.

**Freedom to ask questions:** One-to-one tuition gives students a safe environment to ask all the questions they may not have the confidence to ask in front of a class. These may be questions helping them understand concepts they didn't grasp in school, or queries which help develop a curiosity about subjects beyond the curriculum. Expanding this is a key goal of Carfax tuition to encourage independent research, lateral thinking, and spark a love for learning. Some of the best learning happens while exploring tangents starting from a pupil's question, which is why no question is out of bounds for Carfax tutors!

**Time flexibility:** Full-time courses can be designed with each pupil – and their family's schedules – in mind. One-to-one programmes are often not bound by traditional term dates or school timings, and courses can be developed both online and offline to fit your



PUPILS ENJOY THE INDEPENDENCE THAT ONE-TO-ONE TUTORING BRINGS; *they can take ownership of their work and direct their learning* IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THEIR TUTOR SO THEY CAN WORK ON THE TOPICS THEY CHOOSE

needs. The best full-time programmes are developed to be both academically rigorous and provide maximum flexibility to each pupil and their families.

**Perfect for independent minds:** Pupils enjoy the independence that one-to-one tutoring brings; they can take ownership of their work and direct their learning in partnership with their tutor, so they can work on the topics they choose. This independence encourages pupils to develop plans for their workload, learn to prioritise what's important to them and take pride in their work.

**Work at your pace:** For many, the benefit of one-to-one tuition is the ability to work at the pupil's pace. If a student is progressing beyond their curriculum, one-to-one tuition gives them a space to extend their learning

and develop new subjects. For those who are struggling with moving at the pace of the class, one-to-one tuition provides the time and help needed to ensure understanding is met.

Carfax Private Tutors support thousands of pupils across the globe to reach their academic potential. Its team of enthusiastic tutors deliver the highest quality lessons from its offices in London, Moscow, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Hong Kong, and Monaco. In partnership with its independent school, Carfax College, the provider develops personalised programmes for each and every student – whether they're taking supplementary tuition at their home, or a full-time course on-site at Carfax College, all of Carfax's students benefit from adaptive, flexible and targeted support. 📧 [carfax-education.com](http://carfax-education.com)



## St John's College, Hampshire

Grove Road South, Southsea, Hampshire, PO5 3QW



**Headteacher:** Mrs Mary Maguire

**Admissions:** [admissions@stjohnscollege.co.uk](mailto:admissions@stjohnscollege.co.uk)  
+44 (0)2392 815 118

**GENDER/AGES:** boys and girls, 2-18 years

**FEES:** Pre-prep (lower school) daily from £55, weekly from £277. Prep (middle school) daily from £59, weekly from £295, flexi board on request, full boarding from £9,500 per term. Senior daily from £73, weekly from £365, flexi board on request, full boarding from £9,500 per term. Sixth form daily from £73, weekly from £365, flexi board on request, full boarding from £9,500 per term

**TYPICAL CLASS SIZE:** Prep - 10, senior - 22, sixth form - 15

**FAITH:** Christian

**MOTTO:** *Per Laborem ad Honorem*

**ENTRANCE PROCEDURE:** Every pupil joining the college needs to be assessed to see if any additional support is required, and to determine which teaching sets will be allocated. Entrance exams can be held at any time of year, and on an individual basis. Pupils will be asked to provide us with an academic report and reference from their current school.

**School philosophy:** St John's College exists to affirm Lasallian values, fostering and celebrating the gifts and talents of every individual, preparing them to make a positive contribution to the school community and wider global society.

**Academic record:** 2020 GCSE results saw a significant overperformance on both measures. 92% of students gained 5 GCSEs at 9-4, and 85.5% of students gained 5 GCSEs at 9-4 including English and maths, which is a continued improvement over the last 5 years. With half of A-level exams sat an overperformance by 1 grade, St John's College is above all national average measures.

**Extracurricular:** St John's College supports pupils with sporting commitments outside of school by offering flexible timetables. Co-curricular clubs include sporting tournaments, art & design, history, politics, STEM & robotics, engineering and medic pathways.

**Notable achievements and alumni:** St John's College is the first UK school to join the International Schools Association. Notable alumni include *Game of Thrones* actor Alfie Allen; the BBC's George Alagiah; professional footballer Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain among others.

[www.stjohnscollege.co.uk](http://www.stjohnscollege.co.uk)

**Open Days: personal tours offered**



350

## Ashville College, North Yorkshire

Green Lane, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG2 9JP



**Head Teacher:** Mrs Elspeth Fisher (Acting Head)

**Admissions:** [admissions@ashville.co.uk](mailto:admissions@ashville.co.uk)  
+44 (0)1423 566 358

**GENDER/AGES:** Boys and girls, 3-18 years

**FEES:** Nursery £1,430, pre-prep (day) from £3,156, prep (day) £3,799, full boarding from £6,400, senior (day) from £5,314-£5,474, full boarding from £7,915-£9,820 per term

**TYPICAL CLASS SIZE:** Prep - max 16, Senior - max 20, Sixth Form - average of 5-10 pupils, (depending on A Level subject)

**FAITH:** Methodist, however we welcome pupils of all faiths

**MOTTO:** *'Esse quam videri' - (Latin) 'To be, rather than to seem'*

**ENTRANCE PROCEDURE:** Ashville College is an academically selective school and therefore entrance assessments are required as part of the admissions process. Please visit the admissions pages of our website for full details.

**School philosophy:** Ashville College is one of the UK's leading co-educational independent day and boarding schools. With outstanding learning provision across all year groups, from Nursery Class to Sixth Form, the school takes pride in developing each individual to their full potential, wherever their strengths lie. Providing a vibrant and rewarding boarding experience is central to the College ethos and pupils feel at home in the close boarding community. Founded in 1877, the College has a proud past, and an even brighter future, yet its ethos and values remain loyal to its Methodist traditions, where each child is known and nurtured within a caring, safe and supportive environment.

**Academic record:** Ashville is proud of strong results across GCSE and A-level qualifications, with pupils progressing to Oxbridge, Russell Group and Ivy League universities. It is proud to be the only independent school in the North of the UK to be accredited by the New England Association of School and Colleges (NEASC) to award US High School Diplomas.

**Extracurricular:** Extracurricular activities are at the heart of an Ashville education, broadening and enriching the experience for all pupils.

An extensive range of extracurricular activities form part of its Enrichment Programme, which incorporates a variety of sports, performing arts, creative arts, as well as more unusual clubs and societies for pupils to try.

**Notable achievements and alumni:** All former Ashville College pupils are welcomed to join the Ashvillian Society. The Society aims to build a strong alumni community and one that remains engaged with the College.

[www.ashville.co.uk](http://www.ashville.co.uk)

**Open Days: Sat 27 Feb - Full College Open Day (virtual), Sat 22 May - Full College Open Day**



840



## Queenswood School, Hatfield

Shepherd's Way, Brookmans Park, Hatfield, Hertfordshire, AL9 6NS, UK



**Headteacher:** Mrs Jo Cameron

**Admissions:** [admissions@queenswood.org](mailto:admissions@queenswood.org)  
+ 44 (0) 1707 602500

**GENDER/AGES:** Girls, 11-18 years

**FEES:** Day from £7,115, weekly from £7,965, flexi boarding from £7,325, full boarding from £8,395

**TYPICAL CLASS SIZE:** Senior - 10-18, sixth form - 5-8

**FAITH:** Christian (Methodist)

**MOTTO:** *In hortis reginae (In the Queen's garden)*

**ENTRANCE PROCEDURE:** Entrance examination, an interview and a confidential report from the applicant's current school.

**School philosophy:** Queenswood are experts at teaching girls, which the school has been doing successfully for 125 years. Girls learn differently to boys and it creates an environment that suits each individual girl's preferred learning style, strengths and support needs. Girls can take intellectual risks, ask questions, or make judgements without worrying about 'looking stupid in front of boys'. Their confidence grows at a pace that suits them and this is one of the reasons why it achieves outstanding value added academic results.

Ultimately the school can sum up its philosophy as "Queenswood girls are happy girls and happy girls are successful girls".

**Academic record:** The school's value-added results are exceptional. On entering the school in year 7, all girls are tested to ascertain their likely GCSE grades. Year after year, girls achieve on average at least one grade higher in their GCSE results than they were predicted five years previously. They go on to a range of top UK and international universities. 14% of the 2019 year 13 cohort were offered an Oxbridge interview.

**Extracurricular:** The school offers over 90 extracurricular activities and are known for sport (number one in the UK and number three in the world), hockey, horse riding and polo. Its performing arts are exceptional, with a high level of music, drama and dance regularly performed in the concert hall and 250-seat theatre. Art at Queenswood is a joy and more than 10% of 2019's year 13 girls were expected to study art at university. Other clubs and societies range from debating to the history of feminism, and Chinese culture before the 19th century.

**Notable achievements and alumni:** Actress Helen McCrory and Carol Thatcher are two of the school's notable alumnae.

[www.queenswood.org](http://www.queenswood.org)

**Open Day: please visit the website for details**







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## King's College, Taunton

South Road, Taunton, Somerset TA1 3LA



**Head Teacher:** Mr Richard Biggs

**Admissions:** [admissions@kings-taunton.co.uk](mailto:admissions@kings-taunton.co.uk)  
+44 (0)1823 328 200

**GENDER/AGES:** Boys and girls: King's College: 13-18 years (our prep school is King's Hall: 2-13 years)

**KING'S COLLEGE FEES:** Senior (day) from £7,690 per term, full boarding from £11,390 per term

**KING'S HALL SCHOOL (PREP SCHOOL) FEES:** Nursery (day) from £32-£54 (ages 2-4) per day, pre-prep (day) reception class (4-5 years) from £2,655, years 1 and 2 from £2,755, prep (day) from £3,320 in years 3 and 4, up to £5,670 in years 7 and 8 per term, flexi boarding from £41 per night (max 3 nights per week)/£680 per term, full boarding from £6,340 in years 3 and 4, up to £8,240 in years 7 and 8 per term

**TYPICAL CLASS SIZE:** Prep – 18-20, senior – 16, sixth form – 10-12

**FAITH:** Christian (but all faiths accepted).

**MOTTO:** *Fortis et Fidelis*

**ENTRANCE PROCEDURE:** Following a discussion with the admissions team, families are invited to visit the school, and meet pupils, staff and the Headmaster. Taster days are held throughout the year, as well as a series of enrichment days linked to the school's scholarships. These days offer children the chance to

experience a day or two at King's. Once a registration form has been received, we will arrange the relevant tests and an interview with our Headmaster. Full details of our admissions process can be found on our websites.

**School philosophy:** Faith, unity and vision are the three words that capture the very essence of a Woodard education. Established by Nathaniel Woodard in 1848, all Woodard schools have an outstanding reputation for providing academic excellence coupled with unrivalled pastoral care.

**Academic record:** King's College is the best performing independent school in Somerset for A-levels. 77% A\*-B in 2019. High numbers achieve places at Oxbridge as well as Russell Group and overseas universities.

**Extracurricular:** King's offers a vast array of co-curricular activities, unparalleled for a school of its size, from sport and drama to music and outdoor pursuits, from CCF and dance to cookery, climbing, equestrian and debating. Inter-house competitions include, debating, music and general knowledge events, as well as inter-school debating, public speaking and Philosothon teams. Many of the academic departments also run their own societies outside the classroom curriculum.

**Notable achievements and alumni:** Cricketer Jos Buttler MBE, hockey player Maddie Hinch MBE, feminist writer Laura Bates, and actress Juno Temple.

**[www.kings-taunton.co.uk](http://www.kings-taunton.co.uk)**

**Open Days: To be held in spring and autumn**



KING'S HALL 320 KING'S COLLEGE 470



# Students need more than just good grades

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EtonX's Future Skills online courses are designed to ensure that young people, aged 14-20, thrive in today's fast changing world by bridging the gap between academic success and life in the real world. They help students to develop vital soft skills to prepare them for the future, both at university and in the workplace.

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For more information, visit [cobis.org.uk/futureskills](https://cobis.org.uk/futureskills)  
Use code **COBIS15** for a 15% discount!



## Bromsgrove School, Worcestershire

Worcester Road, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire B61 7DU



**Headteacher:** Peter Clague

**Admissions:** [Admissions@bromsgrove-school.co.uk](mailto:Admissions@bromsgrove-school.co.uk)  
+44 (0)1527579679

**GENDER/AGES:** Boys and girls, 3-18 years

**FEES:** Nursery (day) from £3,045, pre-prep (day) from £2,810-£3,090, prep (day) from £4,090-£5,310, weekly from £6,220-£7,530, full boarding from £8,530-£10,520, senior (day) £5,865, weekly boarding £8,695, full boarding £13,120 per term

**TYPICAL CLASS SIZE:** Prep – under 20, senior – under 20, sixth form – 2-12

**FAITH:** Anglican

**MOTTO:** *Regi Vicino (God, King and Neighbour)*

**ENTRANCE PROCEDURE:** By application, entrance test and current school report.

**School Philosophy:** Bromsgrove School's results are impressive, but Bromsgrove is much more than a place to get good grades; it prides itself on being a happy school where children of all ages can thrive both academically and outside of the classroom. The most recent ISI inspection rated Bromsgrove as 'excellent' in every category and *The Goods Schools Guide* states that: 'the school looks for what every individual is good at and helps them find their niche and passion'. The heart of Bromsgrove's success is its people. In the top 15% of all independent schools for value added. We exist to broaden horizons.

**Academic Record:** Outstanding results at all levels. The majority of pupils continue to top UK and world universities such as UCL, Durham, Exeter, Bristol, Nottingham and overseas universities including USA, Canada and European destinations.

**Extracurricular:** Bromsgrove is known to be a strong school for sport – there are over 100 sports teams in the senior school. We have featured in the top five schools for sport in *School Sport Magazine* for the last six years. Recent achievements in rugby include winning the U18 Rosslyn Park Sevens Vase. Girls' netball has had a phenomenal season, being crowned champions in the Sisters n Sport National Cup Final and the Independent Schools Cup. Pupils gain direct access to art and drama courses and high-level scholarships.

**Notable Achievements and Alumni:** John Illsley (musician in Dire Straits), Nicholas Evans (author of *The Horse Whisperer*), Ben Cox (cricketer).

[www.bromsgrove-school.co.uk](http://www.bromsgrove-school.co.uk)

**Open Days: Individual visits can be arranged throughout the academic year**



## King William's College, Isle of Man

Castletown, Isle of Man, IM9 1TP



**Headteacher:** Mr Joss Buchanan

**Admissions:** [admissions@kwc.im](mailto:admissions@kwc.im)  
+44 (0)1624 820400

**GENDER/AGES:** Boys and girls, 11-18 years

**FEES:** Senior (day) from £18,250-£23,250 per year, weekly boarding from £208-£250 per week, flexi boarding from £55 per day, full boarding from £29,250-£34,250 per year

**TYPICAL CLASS SIZE:** Senior – 15, sixth form – 10

**FAITH:** Church of England

**MOTTO:** *Assiduitate, non desidia*

**ENTRANCE PROCEDURE:** Non-selective. School reports and an interview required

**School Philosophy:** The school is distinctive in that it is one of the few where every student in the sixth form studies the International Baccalaureate Diploma. The IB philosophy – particularly its emphasis on skills and its focus on internationalism – is central to our approach and we are one of the largest and most experienced IB schools in the British Isles. Most of our pupils live locally in the Isle of Man, but we also have a thriving boarding community and students travel from all over the world to study the IB in such a beautiful and safe environment.

**Academic Record:** Success can be measured in many ways; in university placements, almost all our students go on to university either in the UK, US or Europe; in academic results, our (I)GCSE and IB Diploma results are strong and well above the UK average; in sporting achievements, our teams are competitive in a wide array of sport; in artistic performance, drama, visual arts and music thrive throughout the school.

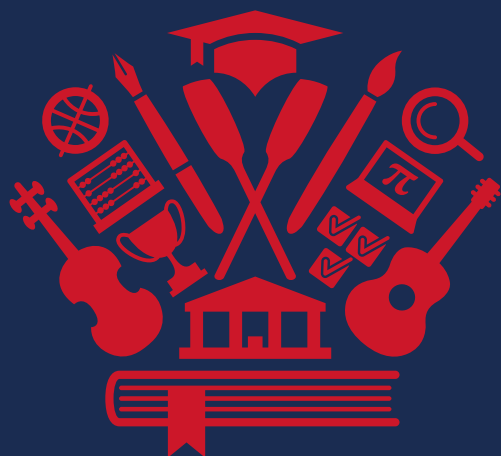
**Extracurricular:** Knowledge is vital, but so too are confidence, communication and character. It is important to learn how to lead, how to contribute and how to build. Whether it is a concert, a play, a debate, a trek or a match, what matters is participation and a willingness to try something new. There is a vast array of opportunity at college to try new challenges, two of the most popular are the Combined Cadet Force and the Duke of Edinburgh Award, but there is something for everyone.

[www.kwc.im](http://www.kwc.im)

**Open Days: October and May each year**







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[info@gabbitas.com](mailto:info@gabbitas.com)  
+44 (0) 207 734 0161

China  
Dubai  
United Kingdom





## Felsted School, Essex

Felsted, Essex CM6 3LL



**Headteacher:** Mr Chris Townsend

**Admissions:** [admissions@felsted.org](mailto:admissions@felsted.org)

+44 (0)1371 822600

**GENDER/AGES:** Boys and girls, 4-18 years

**FEES:** Pre-prep (day) from £3,150, prep (day) from £4,600, prep weekly from £7,995, prep full boarding from £8,495 per term, prep flexi boarding from £51.50 per night, senior (day) from £8,165, senior weekly from £11,575, senior contemporary (three nights) boarding from £9,995, senior full boarding from £12,495 per term

**TYPICAL CLASS SIZE:** Prep - 20, senior - 20, sixth form - 15

**FAITH:** Christian, but all faiths welcome.

**MOTTO:** *Garde ta Foy (Keep your Faith).*

**ENTRANCE PROCEDURE:** Please see our website for details.

**School Philosophy:** Felsted offers a leading all-round holistic education that develops the character of every child. We welcome boys and girls from all over the world to appreciate a first-class British boarding school education. Based on a safe, rural village campus in stunning North Essex, only one hour from London and Cambridge, we offer a modern, global approach to learning, with a depth of heritage boasting 456 years as one of the oldest and finest schools in England. Small class sizes cater for individual development while a broad curriculum, which includes both A-levels in and the IB Diploma in the sixth form, plus leading co-curricular and leadership opportunities, provides a fun and inspiring learning environment.

**Academic Record:** 2020 Results: IB Diploma: 100% pass rate, 36 average score (4 points above the global average). A Levels: 100% pass rate over the past 3 years, 33% of all grades were A\*-A, 64% A\*-B and 87% A\*-C (3 year average). GCSE: 100% pass rate over the past 3 years. 50% of all grades were 9-7, 70% 9-6 and 96% 9-4 (3 year average).

**Extracurricular:** Our dedicated teachers will provide your child with a very rich diet of sport, music, drama and art alongside a plethora of extra-curricular options such as debating, Medical Society, Pilates and media. We will help your child unearth their strengths, interests and talents, so that they leave us with passions that will be fulfilling and sustaining in later life.

**Notable Achievements:** Felsted has been shortlisted over the past three years for nine different TES awards, including Prep School of the Year, Sports School of the Year and Boarding School of the Year. We were also presented with a prestigious Wellbeing Award in 2019 for our commitment to the wellbeing of our pupils.

[www.felsted.org](http://www.felsted.org)

**Open Days: Online and Onsite throughout the year.**



1,050

## Bishop's Stortford College, Hertfordshire

10 Maze Green Road, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, CM23 2PJ



**Headteacher:** Kathy Crewe-Read

**Admissions:** Senior School - [admissions@bishopsstortfordcollege.org](mailto:admissions@bishopsstortfordcollege.org)

Prep School - [psadmissions@bishopsstortfordcollege.org](mailto:psadmissions@bishopsstortfordcollege.org)

Pre-Prep - [ppadmissions@bishopsstortfordcollege.org](mailto:ppadmissions@bishopsstortfordcollege.org)

+44 (0)1279 838 575

**GENDER/AGES:** Boys and girls, 4-18 years

**FEES:** Pre-prep (day) from £3,222-£3,285, prep (day) from £4,975-£5,576, weekly from £7,658-£8,314, flexi boarding from £74/night - £255/4 nights full boarding from £7,739-£8,746, senior (day) from £6,970-£7,032, weekly from £10,812-£10,932, full boarding from £11,242-£11,621, part-time boarding from £8,668 (2-day boarding)-£9,507 (3-day boarding) per term

**TYPICAL CLASS SIZE:** Pre-prep - 22 (max), Prep - 22 (max), senior - 24, sixth form - 10

**FAITH:** Christian, Non-denominational **MOTTO:** *Soli Deo Gloria*

**ENTRANCE PROCEDURE:** Selective. Please visit the website for details.

**School Philosophy:** Bishop's Stortford College is a wonderful place of learning where boys and girls have exceptional opportunities to become fulfilled, skillful, creative and happy. Every pupil is encouraged, taught and challenged to fulfil their true potential; immersed in an environment of discovery and wholehearted participation. Academic work is balanced by sport, music, drama and a wealth of other activities such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award, service to the community and leadership opportunities. Pupils are given every chance to join in and try new experiences, whatever their abilities or interests. It strives to building confidence for life.

**Academic record:** Bishop's Stortford College is one of the UK's top independent co-ed day and boarding schools. Typical A-level results are above 50% A\*-A grades, with 20% of all grades being A\*, around 80% A\*-B grades and 100% pass rate. At GCSE, it's usual for around a third of all grades to be 9 and two-thirds 9-7, with 100% achieving five or more 9-4.

**Extracurricular:** A diverse range of extracurricular activities alongside high academic standards provides the opportunity for every child to discover and explore areas of interest.

**Notable achievements and alumni:** Charli CX (singer-songwriter), Alan Lyddiard (theatre and film director), Dick Clement (TV and screen writer), Ben Clarke (England Rugby Union Player), Sir Stephen Lander (Director-General of MI5, 1996-2002).

[www.bishopsstortfordcollege.org](http://www.bishopsstortfordcollege.org)

**Open Days: All entry points - early Sep;  
Sixth Form - early-mid Oct; Prep School - early Nov;  
Pre-Prep - late April. Visit the website for more details.**



1,214



## Clifton College, Bristol

32 College Road, Clifton, Bristol BS8 3JH



**Head of College:** Dr Tim Greene MA DPhil

**Admissions:** [prepadmissions@cliftoncollege.com](mailto:prepadmissions@cliftoncollege.com);  
[admissions@cliftoncollege.com](mailto:admissions@cliftoncollege.com); +44 (0)117 315 7110

**GENDER/AGES:** Boys and girls, 0-18 years

**FEES:** Nursery (day) from £3,440, pre-prep (day) from £3,440, prep (day) from £4,540, flexi boarding from £5,595, full boarding from £8,300, senior (day) from £8,340, flexi boarding from £11,160, full boarding from £12,380 per term

**TYPICAL CLASS SIZE:** Prep - 17, senior - 17, sixth form - 10

**FAITH:** Christian foundation welcoming all faiths

**MOTTO:** *Spiritus Intus Alit; The spirit nourishes within*

**ENTRANCE PROCEDURE:** Please contact the college's admissions team by phone, email or online to discuss your child's application and the next steps.

**School philosophy:** The core values of the college remain unchanged since it first welcomed pupils in 1862: intellectual agility, a capacity for boldness, social confidence, a sense of fun, and strength and decency of character. Today the college continues to offer a tailored education for each child, delivered through exceptional pastoral care, inspirational teaching, diverse

co-curricular activities and excellent facilities. Clifton pupils excel at a wide range of subjects, including the arts and sport, and leavers go on to the best universities in the UK.

**Academic record:** Last year, 90% of students won a place at their chosen university, including places at Oxford, Cambridge, Yale, Toronto, San Francisco and Hong Kong, to study a wide range of subjects from medicine, economics and modern languages to law, engineering, music and classics.

**Extracurricular:** Music, art and drama play a large part in the life of the school, as do sport, outdoor pursuits, Clifton in the Community and the combined cadet force. The wide range of activities available provide opportunities to develop leadership skills, to take on responsibility and to broaden interests.

**Notable achievements and alumni:** Old Cliftonians who have gone on to become household names include actors Trevor Howard and Simon Russell-Beale; comedian John Cleese; inventor of the Belisha Beacon Leslie Hore-Belisha; General Douglas Haig; journalist John Inverdale; and GB Hockey player Lily Owsley, whose team won gold in the 2016 Olympic Games.

[www.cliftoncollege.com](http://www.cliftoncollege.com)

**Open Days: Nursery to Year 3: Friday 29 January 2021, Year 4 to Year 8: Saturday 6 February 2021, Year 9 to Year 13: Saturday 30 January 2021**



1,236



## Rugby School, Rugby

Lawrence Sheriff Street, Rugby CV22 5EH



**Executive Head Master:** Mr Peter Green  
**Admissions:** admissions@rugbyschool.net  
 +44 (0)1788 556216

**GENDER/AGES:** Boys and girls, 13-18 years  
**FEES:** Senior (full boarding) £12,266, senior (day) £7,696 per term.  
**TYPICAL CLASS SIZE:** Senior 5-15  
**FAITH:** Church of England  
**MOTTO:** *Whole person, whole point*  
**ENTRANCE PROCEDURE:** Please see our website for details

**School Philosophy:** Our mantra is 'The Whole Person is the Whole Point'. Our students are achieving the best academic results in the school's history, but at Rugby, there is a whole lot more to experience, achieve and share. We stand out because our young people have the confidence to challenge and question – they are not afraid to fail. We teach them how to recover, to make the best of their skills, and while excellence is celebrated, at Rugby, nobody is ever on the bench.

Our 3Rs of restlessness, reflection and rootedness are shared by our staff and students who are united in their desire for growth and development.

**Academic Record:** For the last five years, Rugby School's exam results have been better than the year before. In 2019 more than 64% of all grades at A-level were A\* or A, better than our major competitors for the third year running, while 61.3% of GCSEs scored a 9 or an 8. The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme is a new option from 2021.

**Co-curricular:** There are more than 200 co-curricular options here across a wide range of topics interests. Our programme is not about simply filling time or bolt-ons to existing subjects, but more about creating enriching experiences that ignite a spark, lead to another question or nurture a quiet confidence.

**Notable Achievements and Alumni:** In 2019, 15 students achieved Oxbridge places, 10 of our sports teams including tennis, hockey, cricket, netball and sailing were unbeaten, BBC Radio 4 recorded six daily service broadcasts with us, four students were accepted by the National Youth Theatre and Rugby was named Co-educational School of the Year at the Independent School of the Year Awards.

[www.rugbyschool.co.uk](http://www.rugbyschool.co.uk)

**Open Events in 2021:**  
 13+: 16 and 30 January, 20 March and 8 May  
 Day House: 27 April. Sixth Form: 12 June



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## St Edmund's School Canterbury

St Thomas Hill, Canterbury CT2 8HU



**Headteacher:** Mr Edward O'Connor  
**Admissions:** admissions@stedmunds.org.uk  
 +44 (0)1227 475601

**GENDER/AGES:** Boys and girls, 3-18 years.  
**FEES:** Nursery from £2,698, pre-prep from £3,313, prep (junior school) from £5,325, full boarding from £9,544, flexi boarding from £8,697, senior from £7,220, full boarding from £12,533, flexi boarding from £11,682 per term.  
**TYPICAL CLASS SIZE:** Prep – 14, senior – 14, sixth form – 7.  
**FAITH:** Church of England. **MOTTO:** *Fungar Vice Cotis*.  
**ENTRANCE PROCEDURE:** Entry into school by visit, assessment and report. Scholarships available at 11+, 13+ and 16+.

**School Philosophy:** Established in 1749, St Edmund's combines respect for tradition and history with a fresh, engaging and forward-thinking attitude to the education of young people. Our approach is focused on the unique abilities and needs of individual pupils. All our pupils are valued for their contribution to the school and we take great pride in their successes.

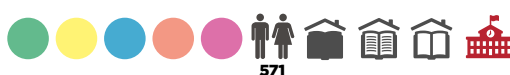
**Academic Record:** At the heart of our educational philosophy is a sharing of the joy of learning which, along with our insistence on ambition, helps to make our pupils the very best they can be: creative, active learners who are well-equipped to shape their futures and those of others. In 2019 the A-level pass rate was 98%, with A\*-B grades at 56%.

**Extracurricular:** We offer one of the widest and most varied co-curricular programmes in Kent; pupils can choose anything from horse riding to chess, mindfulness to debating, ground-breaking drama and outstanding musical activities, and some exceptional sporting opportunities. Our programme is flexible and constantly evolving to reflect pupils' interests and passions, with new clubs and societies starting each term at the request of pupils, and going on to thrive.

**Notable Achievements and Alumni:** Inspiring achievements and representation in the Junior Academy at the Royal Academy of Music, Royal Academy of Music Junior Department, National Youth Orchestra, National Children's Orchestra, Kent Youth Choir and Youth Theatre. Shortlisted for Independent Schools of the Year 2019 in the performing arts category. Sporting representation in Kent County Cricket Men's 2nd XI, England Touch Rugby, U14 Kent County Rugby and British Athletics Performance Pathway. Educator to the Canterbury Cathedral Choristers. Alumni: Orlando Bloom (actor), Lawrence Durrell (author) and Robin Jackman (cricketer).

[www.stedmunds.org.uk](http://www.stedmunds.org.uk)

**Open Morning: Saturday 13 February 2021**



571





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## Wells Cathedral School, Somerset

The Liberty, Wells, Somerset BA5 2ST



**Head Teacher:** Mr Alastair Tighe

**Admissions:** admissions@wells.cathedral.school  
+44 (0)1749 834441

**GENDER/AGES:** Boys and girls, 2-18 years

**FEES:** Nursery: Little Wellies Nursery (day 8am-6pm) - £62, (school day 9am-4.30pm) £46.50, reception (day) £7,908, pre-prep - (years 1/2, day) from £9,243, junior school years 3/4/5/6 (year 3 day) £11,910, (year 4-6 day) from £13,245, (weekly boarding) from £21,033, (full boarding) from £24,279, senior (year 7-11 day) from £18,378, (weekly boarding) from £27,150, (full boarding) from £30,660, senior (sixth form day) from £19,458, (weekly boarding) £28,818, (full boarding) £32,565 per annum

**TYPICAL CLASS SIZE:** Junior - 14-16, Senior - 14-16

**FAITH:** Christian. All faiths welcome

**MOTTO:** *Esto Quod Es (Be What You Are)*

**ENTRANCE PROCEDURE:** Non-selective, although an informal interview, cognitive ability test, previous term's reports and a report from the head of current school will be taken into account. There is a scholarship day each January, as well as music auditions for the specialist music scheme.

**School philosophy:** Wells Cathedral School wants its pupils to grow into the very best version of themselves. Wellensians are encouraged to be curious and open-minded, develop their character in a positive way, and nurture their passions. The school's core values are creativity, aspiration, responsibility and endeavour, which aptly spell 'CARE', representing the most important aspect of all - that Wellensians are kind to each other.

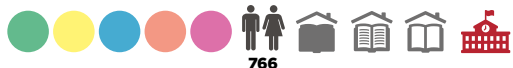
**Academic record:** GCSE results have been consistently high, with 83% for grades 9 to 5 (2019), while the grade A\*-C A-level pass rate is 84%. Over 90% of pupils secure places at one of their top-two university choices, with more than 60% going to Russell Group institutions, 10% to Oxbridge and around 25% to one of the world's leading music conservatoires. (Wellensian musicians have had a 100% success rate when applying to conservatoires).

**Extracurricular:** Pupils of all abilities are encouraged to take part in sport, with more than 15 to choose from. The art and drama departments have built a reputation for ambitious exhibitions and productions. There are also extensive outdoor learning opportunities, such as camping trips, DofE and CCF.

**Notable achievements and alumni:** Michael Eavis CBE, Glastonbury Festival founder; Jamie Walton, international cellist; Meeta Raval, international soprano and, award-winning contemporary artist, Justin Mortimer.

[www.wells.cathedral.school](http://www.wells.cathedral.school)

Open Day: 6 March 2021



766

## Plymouth College Independent School, Plymouth

Ford Park, Plymouth, Devon, PL4 6RN



**Head Teacher:** Mrs Jo Hayward

**Admissions:** admissions@plymouthcollege.com  
+44 (0)1752 505 100

**GENDER/AGES:** Boys and girls, 3-18 years

**FEES:** Pre-prep weekly from £2,625, prep weekly from £2,730, senior weekly fees from £4,700, senior flexi-boarding fees from £7,520-£8,385, senior full-boarding fees from £9,375-£10,745 per term

**TYPICAL CLASS SIZE:** Prep - 15, senior - 13, sixth form - 10

**FAITH:** Church of England

**MOTTO:** *Dat Deus Incrementum*

**ENTRANCE PROCEDURE:** Please contact the admissions team for further details.

**School philosophy:** At Plymouth College, the teaching staff's purpose is to educate, enrich and empower every single one of its pupils in an environment that's intellectually and emotionally stimulating, as well as progressive and adventurous.

**Academic Record:** Plymouth College's 2020 A-level results: 99% pass rate. The pass-rate grades breakdown is 42% A\*-A/ 70% A\*-B. The school has a 100% pass rate for its 2020 GCSE results, with a grades breakdown of 51% A\*-A/ 82% A\*-B/ 95% A\*-C.

**Extracurricular:** As well as achieving outstanding exam results, Plymouth College students benefit from more than 60 co-curricular opportunities, from elite swimming and pre-med courses to Combined Cadet Force and photography club. There are a host of creative outlets available, including music bands, orchestra, LAMDA-accredited speech and drama qualifications and art clubs. All pupils are welcome to take part in the school's various inter-house competitions and tournaments.

**Notable achievements and alumni:** The school's notable alumni include Olympic diver Tom Daley, Lithuanian Olympic swimmer Ruta Meilutyte, England rugby player Henry Slade, screenwriter David Quantick, novelist Mark Tavener, stage actor and singer Michael Ball, actress and comedian Dawn French and classical singer Annabel Kennedy.

[www.plymouthcollege.com](http://www.plymouthcollege.com)

Open Days: please visit the website for details.



563



## Alleyn's School, London

Townley Road, Dulwich, London SE22 8SU



**Headteacher:** Jane Lunnon (as of January 2021)

**Admissions:** registrar@alleyns.org.uk

+44 (0)20 8557 1500

**GENDER/AGES:** Boys and girls, 11-18 years

**FEES:** £6,950 per term (2019-2020)

**TYPICAL CLASS SIZE:** Senior – 25, sixth form – 12

**FAITH:** Church of England; children are welcome from all faiths and none

**MOTTO:** Co-educational Excellence

**ENTRANCE PROCEDURE:** Registration opens in September and closes in November for entry the following September. Registration fee waiver for candidates who qualify for pupil premium. The process includes assessment papers (English, maths, verbal, non-verbal and spatial reasoning), an interview and a headteacher's report, with small group activities at 11+.

**School philosophy:** Alleyn's is one of the UK's leading independent day schools, providing co-educational excellence and a vibrant curriculum within a warm and caring community. Despite the high attainment, focus is always on the holistic development of the child, and as such learning is constantly extended outside the classroom and into co-curricular activities.

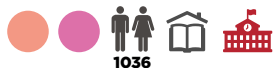
**Academic record:** Alleyn's has a long-held record of academic success for boys and girls. In 2019, 43% of all GCSE grades awarded to Alleyn's pupils were at the highest possible Grade 9, while 71% of all grades awarded were at Grade 9 or 8. In the same year, 30% of all A-level grades awarded were at A\*, while 68% of all grades awarded were at A\* and A.

**Extracurricular:** The school's thriving co-curriculum provides every boy and girl with the opportunity to try out new things and to find out more about themselves. Its extracurricular offering embraces numerous sports, drama, music and art options, an amazing range of clubs, societies and outdoor activities, as well as volunteering, Combined Cadet Force, and the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme.

**Notable achievements and alumni:** Currently, 10% of senior school pupils receive means-tested help and for the majority it means that their families pay no fees at all for them to attend Alleyn's. The school's bursary campaign aims to increase this number to 20% over time. Famous alumni include military intelligence expert R.V. Jones, film director Orlando van Einsiedel, The Right Honourable Professor the Lord Kakkar, actress Nancy Carroll, singer-songwriter Jessie Ware, interiors consultant Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen, novelist C.F. Forrester and composer Dobrinka Tabakova.

[www.alleyns.org.uk](http://www.alleyns.org.uk)

**Open Days: taster days and small group tours are available. Visit [www.alleyns.org.uk/admissions](http://www.alleyns.org.uk/admissions)**



## Highfield Preparatory School, Maidenhead

West Road, Maidenhead, SL6 1PD



**Headteacher:** Mrs Joanna Leach

**Admissions:** office@highfieldprep.org

+44 (0)1628 624918

**GENDER/AGES:** Girls, ages 3-11

**FEES:** Nursery (day) from £215.75, nursery (weekly) from £723.76, pre-prep from £3,200, prep from £3,725 per term

**TYPICAL CLASS SIZE:** Prep – 18

**School philosophy:** Who wouldn't want their daughter to skip happily into school, make really good friends and discover all her talents, where she can become the best she possibly can be? This is the aim for every girl and it is what makes Highfield so wonderful. Highfield Preparatory School is the leading independent girls' school in Maidenhead, offering a great start to the life of learning. In the nursery and reception class right through to year 6, the girls are taught to love learning and are inspired to achieve their very best. It genuinely wants every girl to have the opportunity to shine and be proud, learn who they are, and have the confidence to have a go with the belief that they can succeed. The girls are encouraged to take risks in order to develop resilience. When mistakes are made, this is often when the best learning takes place. The school is passionate about education in the fullest sense and it provides a balance of academic achievement, enjoyment and activity, making it a beacon of excellence in all that it does.

Highfield girls are bright and inquisitive, each with their own unique abilities, interests and aspirations. Curiosity and imagination is encouraged at every stage and provides the foundations for a love of learning and life in the important formative years. Every talent is nurtured; every girl is unique. The girls value the school's diversity and learn from each other in a spirit of celebration of difference. The school welcomes their enthusiasm and encourages their interest in good citizenship. Being at Highfield means being part of a vibrant community in which girls are expected to question, to take on responsibility and to care for others. It believes, that in the important primary years, girls learn best in girls' schools. They learn by doing, listening, exploring and experimenting. The girls are given daily opportunities to explore, question, try, investigate, discover, apply and have fun! This all starts in the nursery where the girls learn to develop confidence and independence.

[www.highfieldprep.org](http://www.highfieldprep.org)

**Open Day: please visit the website for details**





## Downe House, Berkshire

Cold Ash, Thatcham, Berkshire RG18 9JJ



**Headteacher:** Mrs Emma McKendrick  
**Admissions:** registrar@downehouse.net  
 +44 (0)1635 200286

**GENDER/AGES:** Girls, 11-18 years

**FEES:** Senior (day) from £9,705, full boarding from £13,050 per term

**TYPICAL CLASS SIZE:** Senior – average of 15-20, Sixth Form – maximum 12

**FAITH:** Church of England

**ENTRANCE PROCEDURE:** Girls may enter the school at 11+, 12+ or 13+ subject to assessment and interview. Girls can also join the sixth form after interview and entrance test. Applications for entry should be made well in advance. Prospective parents are asked to visit the school and meet the Headmistress.

**School philosophy:** What does it mean to be a Downe House girl? The answer is rooted deep in the Downe House DNA and its key characteristics – collaboration, resilience, creativity, aspiration, compassion, communication and outward looking. There is no 'typical Downe House girl' because the school understands that every girl is an individual and whether she is an artist, a scientist, an historian or a coding whizz, she will be valued, supported and challenged. Underpinning a Downe House education is family-friendly

boarding which offers the gift of extra time for an exceptional range of extracurricular activities and academic enrichment.

**Academic record:** Being a Downe House girl means so much more than just getting the top grades but of course they matter, and everyone is immensely proud of the impressive set of exam results in 2020. At A-level, 95% of the grades achieved were A\* - B and 46% of the grades were A\*. At GCSE, 90% of the grades were 7-9, and over 71% were graded 8/9 (A\* and A\*\*).

**Extracurricular:** The gift of time provided by full boarding enables girls to explore their strengths. They might participate in the Global Schools' Exchange or the huge range of sports, volunteer at local charities, take on leadership roles, rehearse for concerts, drama and dance productions or broaden their outlook through debating and attending lectures.

**Notable achievements and alumni:** Microsoft Showcase school for third year; Green Flag status; top Eco-Schools Award; opening Downe House Muscat, the first girls-only school founded in the Middle East by a British girls' school. Notable alumnae: Dame Rosemary Murray, first female Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University; Sophie Conran, interior designer; Clare Balding, broadcaster; actresses, Miranda Hart and Geraldine James.

[www.downehouse.net](http://www.downehouse.net)

**Open Days: 16 January 2021. 20 March 2021. 24 April 2021. 12 June 2021. Please register for an Open Morning [www.downehouse.net/admissions/visits-and-open-mornings/open-mornings](http://www.downehouse.net/admissions/visits-and-open-mornings/open-mornings)**



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# A warm welcome and a promising future awaits boarders at St Peter's School, York

Founded in 627AD, St Peter's is one of the oldest schools in the world, and one of the UK's leading independent schools.

**S**t Peter's offers an outstanding all-round day and boarding education for girls and boys aged two-18 and was named *The Sunday Times* North Independent School of the Year in 2019. Pupils consistently achieve some of the best results in the country and the school has an international reputation for academic excellence, attracting boarders from over 20 different countries.

Yet what really makes St Peter's stand out is its focus on the whole person. From an early age, pupils develop a lifelong love of learning and hone skills that will make them stand out in a fast-changing world. It is the combination of qualifications, skills, interests and values that gives pupils from St Peter's an advantage as they prepare for life beyond school.

A forward-thinking approach to teaching motivates pupils to explore the world around them, complemented by an exciting and

challenging senior school curriculum. Children benefit from inspirational teachers and a school culture that values effort and hard work as much as it does creativity and enjoyment.

An astounding range of sporting, music and cultural opportunities complete the all-round education, with over 80 different co-curricular activities available and 250 sports teams. From Debating and Combined Cadet Force to the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and the Eco Club, there is something for everyone at St Peter's School.

Enthusiastic participation is the only requirement, and everyone finds something they really love doing, at a level which is right for them. As a result of this focus on teamwork and collaboration, St Peter's boasts some of the most successful school sports teams in the country, competing and winning at a national level.

St Peter's also has one of the largest and most diverse music departments in the country, with numerous ensembles and choirs performing to the highest standards. Drama and art are highly valued, with regular performances and art exhibitions organised by the pupils themselves.





Boarders can fully immerse themselves in the range of experiences on offer at St Peter's. Boarding is available from year seven and the five boarding houses are a home away from home where children can discover new passions and fulfil their potential in a supportive and nurturing environment. With all senior pupils in school for a fully timetabled six-day week, evenings and Sundays bring a welcome opportunity for boarders to relax.

Yorkshire is renowned for its friendly communities, and a warm welcome awaits boarders who choose to call St Peter's their home. The school offers exemplary pastoral care, with dedicated house parents and house assistants, a listening team and the school chaplain on hand to support pupils and ensure that they have the best possible experience during their time at school. A careful focus on work-life balance means that boarders can experience everything on offer and still have the time to relax and make lifelong friendships in their boarding houses.

Phoebe, an upper sixth form boarder at St Peter's, says: "The kind and friendly atmosphere made me feel instantly at home. There is a strong sense of house spirit within the boarding community."

At St Peter's School, boarders are fortunate to have the historic city of York on their doorstep. York is frequently voted as one of the best places to live in the UK and boasts a rich history dating back to the Roman period. It is the perfect place for boarders to explore on weekends, from the magnificent York Minster to museums, ancient city walls, art galleries, and an exciting range of festivals and events. St Peter's School shares a joint foundation with York Minster, which hosts a number of school events and services throughout the year.

St Peter's combines city living with outdoor space for children to grow and thrive. Despite being just five minutes' walk away from the centre of York, boarders can also enjoy the freedom offered by the school's 50-acre campus



on the banks of the River Ouse. The boarding houses are adjacent to the extensive campus, with industry-recognised sports pitches, an award-winning swimming pool and a new boat house on the River Ouse.

Beyond the city, Yorkshire offers countless opportunities for adventure and exploration. The stunning coastline is a popular destination for educational visits and pupils can regularly be found combing the coast at Whitby or Flamborough Head on geography field trips.

The north of England is also home to several Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and three national parks: the Yorkshire Dales, the North York Moors and the Lake District National Park. With these stunning landscapes on its doorstep, it is understandable why St Peter's attracts boarders from across the UK and beyond.

Boarders at St Peter's regularly explore the local area on weekend trips organised by their house parents. Kevin, an international boarder at St Peter's, says: "Boarding gives me time and space to relax and socialise so that I do not miss home as much. Our house parents

organise activities where we can all spend time together and the strong bond between us makes me feel like being in a huge family!"

With so much to offer, it is hardly surprising that St Peter's was named *The Sunday Times* North Independent Secondary School of the Year 2019. *The Sunday Times* said: "St Peter's develops determined all-rounders capable of contributing to society once they leave, confident in the skills they have acquired at this historic school."

By establishing an exceptional learning environment, St Peter's enables boarders to fully embrace their time at school while laying the foundations for successful, happy and fulfilled lives beyond.

"Our mission is to create amazing adults," says Jeremy Walker, Headmaster of St Peter's School. "We want to develop confident, rounded young men and women who make the most of their abilities in preparation for life beyond St Peter's while having fantastic, fun and busy lives at school."

St Peter's School enjoys access to international airports including Manchester, Leeds, Doncaster and Newcastle and is also well-connected to London by train. York is under two hours by train from London, making St Peter's easily accessible for UK and international boarders.

How to apply: St Peter's welcomes international boarding enquiries and early applications are advised with a deadline of 31 December for entry the following year. 📧

**The friendly admissions team can assist with student visas and guide you through the admissions process. Visit [www.stpetersyork.org.uk/st\\_peters\\_13\\_18/admissions](http://www.stpetersyork.org.uk/st_peters_13_18/admissions) or call +441904 527 305 for further details.**





## Glenstal Abbey School, Ireland

Murroe, Co. Limerick, V94 HC84, Ireland



**Headteacher:** Fr Martin Browne

**Admissions:** admissions@glenstal.com

+353 61 621044

**GENDER/AGES:** Boys, 12-18 years

**FEES:** Senior – full boarding from €20,300 per year

**TYPICAL CLASS SIZE:** Senior – 12-16

**FAITH:** Catholic

**MOTTO:** Pax

**ENTRANCE PROCEDURE:** Prospective pupils and parents are invited to visit the school and meet with the headmaster, staff and students.

**School philosophy:** At Glenstal, the teaching staff aims to develop the unique talents of each boy. We provide a supportive, stimulating and caring environment where people are free to express their talents, creativity and individuality.

**Academic record:** The Leaving Certificate Examination points obtained by Glenstal Abbey students exceed the national average each year. In 2019, its students attained an average of 480 points, out of a maximum of 625. A score of 480 points is equivalent to three A\* (UK's A-levels).

**Extracurricular:** Games and the arts are an integral and enjoyable element of student life at Glenstal Abbey. Each and every student is supported in developing a balance between academic, sports and the arts. The school's extracurricular programme fosters an environment of inclusion, excellence, participation by all, and ultimately builds skills for life, thus fully realising each student's talents.

**Notable achievements and alumni:** Whether it's preparing for international mathematics or business competitions, or exploring the classics of Ancient Greek and Latin literature, singing Gregorian chant in the school choir or representing Ireland in competitive sport, the school's staff seeks to equip its students with a healthy sense of identity, courteous self-confidence and amiable self-awareness.

It's interesting to look at what past Glenstal Abbey students say about the school when they reflect on their own school days. Web Summit co-founder Paddy Cosgrave, who graduated from the school in 2001, said he's grateful that "we had so much freedom in Glenstal. There was a massive amount of independence offered, allowing us to think things out for ourselves. You don't realise how valuable this is until you get to university."

[www.glenstal.com](http://www.glenstal.com)

**Open Day: please visit the website for details**



## Brighton College

Eastern Road, Brighton BN2 0AL



**Headteacher:** Richard Cairns

**Admissions:** registrar@brightoncollege.net

+44 (0)1273 704 200

**GENDER/AGES:** Boys and girls, 3-18 years

**FEES:** Nursery (five full days) £3,735, pre-prep (day) from £3,520,

prep (day) from £4,680, senior (day) from £8,110,

weekly boarding from £11,800, full boarding from £13,240

**TYPICAL CLASS SIZE:** Prep – 15, senior – 15, sixth form – 15

**FAITH:** Christian; welcomes children of all faiths and none

**MOTTO:** ΤΟ ΔΕΥ ΝΙΚΑΤΩ (Let right prevail)

**ENTRANCE PROCEDURE:** Please contact the registrar, Mrs Alison Withers.

**School philosophy:** Brighton College is one of the country's leading independent schools for girls and boys aged 3 to 18 years. The college regularly achieves the best A-level and GCSE results of any co-educational school in the UK, while ensuring children enjoy a wealth of extracurricular opportunities. Renowned for its focus on kindness, the college also excels in art, music, dance, drama and sporting achievements.

Recently named England's Independent School of the Year 2019 by *The Sunday Times* – the second time in a decade it has won this prestigious award – Brighton College has also been called Britain's Most Forward-Thinking School in 2017 and 2018 by *The Week*.

**Academic record:** In *The Telegraph*, Brighton College shares the top spot in England for the best GCSE results in 2019 among 2,000 co-educational schools. Pupils have excelled, with 94.49% of all grades being 7-9. *The Times* lists the college top for A-level results in 2019, with 97% of grades A\*-B. A total of 44% of all grades were at A\*, in comparison to 8% nationally.

**Extracurricular:** From beach volleyball to board games and coding to choir, the college ensures every pupil can get involved in co-curricular life. It's also committed to making sure a connection to community is central to school life through a programme of service, volunteering, entrepreneurship and international trips.

**Notable achievements:** Brighton College focuses first and foremost on a culture of kindness. The school knows that young people only flourish when they're treated with love, kindness and respect. It celebrates the originality of every individual, whether they're shy or confident, sporty, scholarly or both. As *The Sunday Times* reported in 2019: 'the currency at Brighton is kindness, pure and simple'.

[www.brightoncollege.org.uk](http://www.brightoncollege.org.uk)

**Open Days: please visit the website for details**





## Merchiston Castle School, Edinburgh

294 Colinton Road, Edinburgh, EH13 0PU



**Headteacher:** Mr Jonathan Anderson

**Admissions:** [admissions@merchiston.co.uk](mailto:admissions@merchiston.co.uk)  
+44 (0)131 312 2201

**GENDER/AGES:** Boys, 7-18 years

**FEES:** Prep (day) from £5,010, prep (full boarding) from £7,220;  
senior (day) from £8,510, senior (full boarding) from £11,730 per term

**TYPICAL CLASS SIZE:** Senior – 16, sixth form – 13

**FAITH:** Inter-denominational

**MOTTO:** *Ready ay Read*

**ENTRANCE PROCEDURE:** Please see our website for details.

**School philosophy:** The school's mission is to provide a caring community for boys, which treats them as an individual, unearths and tends his talents, encourages him to pursue excellence in all he does and enables him to truly flourish. What makes Merchiston different? It is a combination of things: the size, a relentless focus on the individual, and the fact that it really understands boys and how to get the very best out of them.

**Academic record:** Its excellent exam results (the average UVI pupil's UCAS points tally was 141 (as a guide, AAA at A-level is 144 points and AAB is

136 points) and the destinations of its leavers (two thirds of pupils went to UK Russell Group universities, Bath, St Andrews and leading international institutions) speak for themselves. How it happens is much more important, for that is at the very heart of the school's success. It will get to know your son: his strengths, and areas for development; his interests, and what motivates him; how best to support him through challenges. That knowledge in the round really helps the school to support him academically and to ensure he is equipped to succeed to the very best of his ability.

**Extracurricular:** This is the time in your son's life for exploring and discovering new talents. When he first joins, he will be encouraged to explore as many co-curricular options as possible and gain as much from the experiences as he can. The lessons and skills learned outside the classroom are extremely valuable, and highly transferable.

**Notable achievements and alumni:** Member of the World Leading Schools Association – the only school in Scotland! Number-one UK Golf School (Independent Schools Golf Association, 2019). Number-one UK Tennis School (LTA, 2019). Alumni includes Shane Corstorphine, Senior Vice President, Skyscanner.

[www.merchiston.co.uk](http://www.merchiston.co.uk)

**Open Day: please visit the website for details**



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