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# SCHOOLS GUIDE 2014



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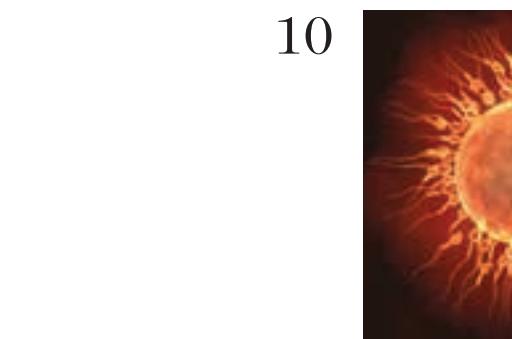
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IMAGE: THOMAS CLAPHAM

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# Welcome

September 2014

Welcome to the very first Exclusive Schools Guide – an indispensable tool for the modern parent trying to navigate the maze that is the 21st century, independent, education system. Our education professionals and experts have sage advice for the novice parent as well as the older hand.

We review 50 top schools across the country with honest insights from those in the know (and at the school gates). Phil Ward of Thomas's Clapham shares his view on the challenges headmasters face today in providing children with an inspiring and relevant education that will stand them in good stead for whatever the future holds.

Gabrielle Villani, Head of Education Advisory at Salamanca Group, writes about the value of a British education and it is clear that we can celebrate having one of the most enviable schooling systems in the world, so read on!

ESTELLE LEE, Editor-in-chief  
[ELee@exclusivemagazines.co.uk](mailto:ELee@exclusivemagazines.co.uk)

## Salamanca Group foreword

**K**nowing where to turn for education advice is at the forefront of many parents' minds. Salamanca Group offers tailored education services for families who are looking for the very best education expertise. While Salamanca Group's core businesses are focused on investment and advisory and operational risk, the company recognises that education, offered through their Private Office team, is the most important investment of all.

Education services at Salamanca Group were developed from a need to provide parents with dedicated guidance. The group's expertise in education, both as teachers and school managers, means that it is ideally placed to guide parents

through the process of school selection, admissions and placement in a way that is both thorough and dedicated. The team provides a full continuum of services including an initial consultation, accompanied school visits, school selection, academic assessments and high-quality tutoring. The greatest care is taken with children's ever-evolving education needs, from nursery education, to transitions from pre-prep through to prep and secondary schools.

GABRIELLE VILLANI, Head of Education Advisory, Salamanca Group  
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IMAGE: NORTHCOTE LODGE

## SALAMANCA Group

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• Please note that Salamanca Group are not involved in the selection of educational establishments within the supplement and are not responsible for the editorial views within.

Salamanca Group offers a new approach, integrating traditional Merchant Banking practices and values with sophisticated Operational Risk expertise. The Group believes the true nature of Merchant Banking is the practice of building enduring relationships with clients to help them enable their business, protect their assets and grow their capital. Their Merchant Banking model takes into account the risks inherent in today's world and encapsulates various services to help uncover opportunities and manage risks in a proactive way. Their approach extends to our private, corporate, institutional and governmental clients. Founded in 2002, and privately held, the Group has a comprehensive track record of partnership and delivery across all our activities. A holistic framework is delivered through the following divisions; Investment and Advisory, Corporate Risk Management, Business Intelligence & Investigations and Private Office.

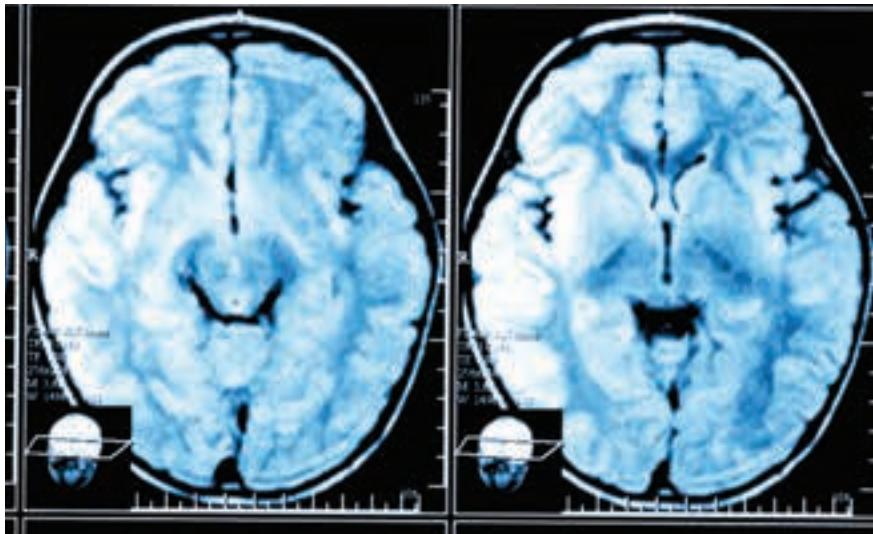
# School report

*Happenings in the world of independent education*

## EIGHTY YEARS IN EIGHTY DAYS

Gordonstoun is celebrating its 80th anniversary this year. The school training vessel, Ocean Spirit of Moray, left Kyle of Lochalsh on 4 June to sail around the coast of Great Britain, finishing 80 days later in Plockton, having called at Edinburgh, Ipswich, London, Brighton, Portsmouth, Salcombe, Bristol, Liverpool and Glasgow en route. The boat was crewed by over 80 Gordonstoun students aged from 13-18. Highlights included sailing under Tower Bridge to the sound of the pipes; a birthday reception hosted by the Princess Royal in London and going on-board HMS St Albans whose commander is Old Gordonstounian Catherine Jordan in Portsmouth.





Thomas's Clapham, a leading co-educational prep school in south-west London, has agreed to be a partner school in research that will look at the causes of educational achievement in children attending high-performing independent schools. The study is being conducted by Simon and Jo Walker of the Centre for Human Ecology Theory in association with the Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience at UCL. The contribution of social and emotional factors underlying success in independent schools will be a key focus in this pioneering project, which has attracted the interest of Wellington College and a number of other premier league senior schools.

*Papplewick School in Ascot has come up trumps at scholarship time in 2014, with 10 boys in Year 8 achieving 12 scholarships or exhibitions to top independent secondary schools in the country.*

The latest Independent Schools Council (ISC) census showed an increase in the number of prep school pupils at ISC schools since 2013, and an overall increase in pupils since the start of the economic downturn. Barnaby Lenon, ISC chairman, commented: "Parents clearly continue to value independent education and our schools are seen as amongst the best in the world."



In May, Greshams's pupil Amelia Doran (Year 8) organised a 10-mile sponsored walk, from Holkham beach to Blakeney, and raised £1,500 for Indian charity Social Education and Development Society (SEDS). Amelia became aware of the charity in 2011 whilst at Stonehill International School in Bangalore. SEDS is a non-governmental organisation helping people in the drought-prone area of Anantapur District in Andhra Pradesh. To find out more about the charity, visit [sedsngo.org](http://sedsngo.org)



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# INSPIRING EVERY *child*

*Phil Ward, headmaster of Thomas's Clapham, talks about the ultimate challenge for C21 education*

**H**eads of high-achieving schools know that properly understood education is a journey towards becoming one's best self. Renée, my loyal neighbour and village sage, never tires of regaling me with this tale at some point during our annual summer sojourn to western France...

A Frenchman and an Englishman encounter a fierce lion in the jungle. The Englishman takes flight but the Frenchman pauses to put on his trainers. "You idiot," shouts the Englishman. "You'll never outrun the lion in those." "I don't need to run quicker than the lion," the Frenchman replies. "I just need to run quicker than you." My best efforts to retell the joke in the Englishman's favour will always meet with scoffs of friendly derision and Gallic laughter.

Heads spend much of their waking hours pondering how best to create the conditions in which C21 children will flourish in our increasingly wonky world. And how, above all, we can equip them for a world that we cannot imagine. In this respect, unable to adapt and adjust to new challenges and different ways of being, Renée's Englishman has been badly let down.

It seems he may be a victim of that hungry lion, which feeds on a mistaken assumption that pressure is the friend of achievement. This has nourished a paranoia of relentless test and measurement, formulaic teaching to colourless outcomes, uninspiring curriculums, a drought of creative spark but a tsunami of risk aversion, a lack of playfulness, pressure and cramming, insufficient time to reflect and meditate, scant consideration of social responsibility, and a failure to empower children in their learning.

It's a world where we hear too much about performance statistics and too little about how children feel. All this adds up to learning without joy, purpose and relevance, an education lacking in inspiration. How can this be a good thing? In the past month, Tony Little, who will retire as the

headmaster of Eton next year, said the English exam system is "unimaginative, little changed from Victorian times" and warns that it fails to ready pupils for the modern workplace. He describes the current exam system as "obliging students to sit alone at their desks in preparation for a world in which, for most of the time, they will need to work collaboratively".

Sir Anthony Seldon, the master at Wellington, recognises that academic excellence and high levels of achievement beyond the classroom are not mutually exclusive. "We teach all our pupils character-building skills, which help enormously during the stressful exam period, including self-discipline, the importance of sleep, nutrition and resilience," he said in response to a record-breaking clutch of A-level results.

If there are any certainties ahead we know that school leaders will need to find successful and affordable ways to embrace technology, to teach social responsibility, to promote global learning and sustainability, to teach children to value moments of stillness, to create a culture of learning that values a child's talent for drama as strongly as ability in science.

However, striking a balance between meeting

the needs of parents and children, and the obvious attractions of developing a creative and independent learning culture to equip our children for a future which is theirs, and not ours, is an intoxicating and challenging one. If nothing else we should remind ourselves that done best, education is a marathon not a sprint, and it should inspire every child.

Sadly, I fear this may have come too late for Renée's Englishman.'





# HOW EARLY IS *Early*?

*With the UK schools market being incredibly competitive, do parents need to plan their child's education from the womb?*

Words: GABRIELLE VILLANI

This is the question facing all parents as they plan for their child's education. The first months of being a new parent can be incredibly exhausting. This is without factoring in the possibilities and choices that come with considering prospective schools, and organising school applications whilst simultaneously visualising your little one in their very grown-up uniform in years to come.

Just as parents are trying to get a decent night's sleep, many are faced with the onslaught of questions from friends, including, "to which schools have you registered?" The independent schools market, particularly for London day schools, is incredibly competitive, with registrations from birth for those



most oversubscribed. For children under five in the UK, formal schooling at nursery can start from the age of around two-and-a-half in the private sector, and three-and-a-half in pre-school settings in the maintained sector. This early start to education in comparison with other countries in Europe, and internationally such as Australia, means that in the UK, a little one is scarcely moving on from the milestones of their first smile and tummy time when the decision about where to send them to school begins to become a real consideration.

Here are some basic principles to follow when laying out plans for your child's future.

### ***Do your research and allow time to be on your side***

In the UK system, due to the issue of the limited supply of school places and the demand for them, it's vital you plan ahead, linking any research you gather with your needs for your child. Consider your preference for single-sex or co-educational settings. Are you interested in faith schools or non-denominational? Do you want a small school with one-form entry or a school that offers a more extensive intake with multiple forms for each year group? Do you want a school that is

non-selective in its philosophy and intake, or a highly selective school? Balance your priorities with the organisational structure, culture and community it offers: in particular, the school's ethos, level of staffing, curricular programme, support for learning needs, the extra-curricular programme and the extent to which parents are involved in school life.

David Hanson, chief executive of IAPS (Independent Association of Prep Schools), comments: "Few subjects are more of a priority to parents than their children's education, and while parents do not need to start planning a child's education from the womb, it is worth leaving a good amount of time to explore all the options. Always visit schools and trust your instincts."

### ***Think ahead and consider future family life***

Consider how your family life may change in the coming years – are you likely to move or relocate to another area if or when your family expands? What are the logistics in terms of your commute to work, taking into account the proximity of your child's school to home and the time taken to drop off and pick up your child each day?

### ***If you have a first-choice school, don't delay***

There may be one school that stands out as your first-choice – this may be because you attended the school yourself, or you may have gained an excellent impression of the school. If this is the case, ensure you research the deadline for applications and apply as early as possible. It's also worth making your appreciation for the school known in a covering letter, addressing the reasons why you believe your child would flourish there.

Edward Rees, headmaster at Hornsby House School, advises: "I don't think you can ever be too early, particularly when applying for the independent school market in south London. Demand is high, therefore to maximise choice and avoid disappointment, application forms should be ready on leaving the maternity ward."

While your child's school needn't be planned from the womb, understanding their personality and needs, thinking ahead and researching schools' admissions processes is key to successfully mapping out your little one's schooling future.

● *Gabrielle Villani is Head of Education Advisory at Salamanca Group and specialises in providing education consultancy for parents and businesses. [salamanca-group.com](http://salamanca-group.com)*

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# NAVIGATING YOUR WAY FROM *Nursery to Prep*

*Choosing a school for your child is a complete minefield, so do your research and consider what they have to offer very carefully*

Words: GABRIELLE VILLANI

For many parents, schools are often the precursor to every decision you make about where to live and raise a family. It's a complete maze to navigate not only the school system at large, but the individual admissions requirements of schools to which you apply. This is particularly the case for independent schools. The Independent School Council (ISC) reports there are now 511,928 children enrolled at 1,257 ISC schools offering a private school education. For families who are enrolling their child in the independent system, the process of applying to schools is time-sensitive in terms of when applications should be lodged. Despite variance in admissions policies and procedures from school to school, there are some common considerations to keep in mind.

Firstly, consider which schools feed into others and the 'building block' effect of how one school may aid the transition to the next school. Some schools are associated, either in terms of culture or ethos, in terms of being a brother or sister school, in terms of geography and location, or in terms of ownership and governance. You may find that there are nurseries that may feed into particular pre-preps, which feed into specific prep schools, which feed into secondary schools. It is highly advisable to ask each school you are considering about where children transfer at each age and stage. Many schools will have their destinations list published on their website and it is always worth discussing this list with the headteacher when you visit the school.

The main transition points for independent schools are 4+, 7/8+, 11+, 13+ and 16+, though different schools may have slightly varying structures. Increasingly, schools that were traditionally full-boarding are now offering weekly and flexi-boarding options, while some schools that have been traditionally single sex have broadened their intake to be co-educational at Sixth Form.



## WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU'RE APPLYING

Typically, though not always, parents can expect the following:

- **Oversubscribed schools** – particularly for London day schools where the number of applicants far exceeds the number of school places.
- **Waiting lists and the offer of provisional places**, sometimes from birth for those schools that accept applications immediately after the child is born, or within the first year. Other schools will encourage your child's application to be submitted closer to the age of entry.
- **Admissions procedures** that involve an awareness of timing your child's application in accordance with school deadlines as well as an awareness of the other factors in the admissions policies for each school, including sibling priority or faith priority.

Nathalie Clyne-Wilson, who recently retired from her role as headteacher of Saint Christina's School in St John's Wood, advises parents to "attend open events to gain a feel for a school's ethos, aims, operations and how it distinguishes itself from others, as well as how it specifically prepares children for their next transition point."

Strong and highly reputable nurseries and prep schools will closely advise parents, and smooth the transition through to the next school.

Leading education authority and former headteacher Julie Robinson said: "Do your homework by consulting the school's latest inspection report to gain some insights into what the school is doing well and what needs to improve."

Schools will be inspected by either one of two bodies, The Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) or the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted). This may give some indication of the next steps and potential future directions of the school. School league tables are often a reference point for many parents when considering schools at the higher

end of the education continuum. While some parents may view league tables as a measure of success and an ordered 'rank and file' of schools, these need to be viewed with caution, as not all schools and all curricula are represented. A true measure of the success of a school can only be found by seeing it in action to gain first-hand

insights about what children are learning, how their academic aptitudes are being catered to and life skills the pupils gain before moving on to the next stage.

Navigating the maze of schooling from nursery to prep and beyond can be potentially disorientating. The process can be made much easier by mapping out future transitions and being realistic about how your child will fit in to each new school situation.

For parents, the key to success is to be flexible to the changing needs and interests of your child while forward planning their schooling future.

● *Gabrielle Villani is Head of Education Advisory at Salamanca Group and specialises in providing education consultancy for parents and businesses. [salamanca-group.com](http://salamanca-group.com)*

## **'Do your homework by consulting the school's latest inspection report.' Former headteacher Julie Robinson**

## **GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS WHEN APPLYING FOR SCHOOLS**

- **Keep your options open** by applying to three schools or more.
- **If a school is your first choice, let this be known.** Schools are looking for parents who are enthusiastic, who are willing to support the school community and who will create a long-standing family loyalty that will endure beyond your child's exit from the school.
- **Always take a tour of prospective schools** to get a feel for how the school operates, what staff and children have to say about it, the quality of the facilities and experiences (curricular, extra-curricular, pastoral, social and cultural) for your child.
- **Take tours of schools without your child in the first instance** – looking for schools is like buying a house and it can be an emotional process. Once you have shortlisted schools, then take your child along to see what they are drawn towards.
- **Keep in contact with the school while you are on the waiting list** and provide them with updated personal and work contact information as changes arise.
- **Nurture the relationship with your child's prospective school** and attend events to keep abreast of the school developments. Some schools invite families who have pre-registered with them to events so they feel welcome and included in the school community.
- **At interview, sometimes the attitudes and enthusiasm for a school exhibited by parents may 'seal the deal'.** It helps if you can articulate why you think the school is the best fit for your child by drawing on your knowledge of the school.
- **Depending on the school culture, some schools look favourably upon parents' willingness to be involved in school life,** and to share your skills and talents to the betterment of the school community – this may include cultural celebrations, career industry days, mentor programmes, helping children with reading, or supporting learning at school and accompanying your child's class on school trips. You may wish to be involved in the parent association – in many cases, this is central to the school's reputation of maintaining home-school partnerships.
- **If your child is offered a place at multiple schools, liaise with each school to ensure they are kept up to date about your final decision.** This means that the place can be offered to the next child on the waiting list without delay.
- **Be honest about your child's needs,** personality and interests when applying for schools to ensure that they are matched to your child – the most important factor is for your child to be motivated and settled so that they may flourish.
- **Finally, trust your knowledge of your child** and their needs when applying for schools. Schools will appreciate and welcome applications from families who are willing to support and work in partnership with them, not only now but long into the future.

# THE VALUE OF A British education

*Due to first-class facilities and a culture steeped in tradition, UK independent schools here and abroad are considered to be among the best across the globe*

Words: GABRIELLE VILLANI

**W**hat's the true value of a British education? It seems it's worth its weight in gold if the demand for UK education from international parents is anything to go by. The Independent Schools Council 2014 Census found that there are 24,391 non-British pupils with parents living overseas who are currently enrolled in ISC British Schools. In terms of exporting our schools overseas, the market for British education abroad continues to explode, with new school franchises of UK flagship schools opening at a rapid rate across different international markets, such as Europe, China, the United Arab Emirates, South America and in the Asia/Pacific region. In the UK, independent education has a huge impact on the economy, providing a £9.5 billion gross value added contribution to Britain's Gross Domestic Product and supporting 227,000 UK jobs.

On the world stage, British independent schools are widely regarded as among the best, with the most historic British schools, such as Eton, remaining highly sought after by parents across the globe. Edward Rees, headmaster of a leading London day school, comments: "I think the value of a British education is still respected, borne out by the continued interest from abroad. The independent prep curriculum tends to be broad and academically rigorous, with a necessary emphasis upon traditional values and the social development of the child."

The challenge for all British schools is to capture what it is to be British and preserve this at the heart of the school identity. Yet school heads



and governors are also aware that they need to move with the times and the economic, cultural and political circumstances in which they find themselves. They are aware of the education market for parents other than those who are British and the needs of globally mobile families.

So what is it that attracts international parents to a British independent education for their children? Amongst other factors, it is the offer of first-class facilities, a learning culture steeped in history and tradition, impressive curricular and extra-curricular opportunities, and an alumni network that endures for a long time after a child leaves the school establishment.



*\* Britain's fine historic schools, such as Eton, are the most widely sought after by parents in the UK and overseas*

*'There is a noticeable increase in international parents desiring a British independent education for their children'*

## TIPS WHEN LOOKING FOR A BRITISH EDUCATION FOR YOUR CHILD:

- Think about what's truly on offer at education fairs/exhibitions in terms of which schools are actually represented – these events may offer an initial reference point for some of the most renowned British schools, but your own research, along with school visits, will reveal which particular school(s) are the best fit for your child.

- Consider engaging an education consultant, particularly if you are moving to the UK, as they can talk you through options and help you to objectively appraise each school.
- Keep abreast of changes to the UK curriculum and how this will impact what your child will study and when.

"There is a noticeable increase in international parents desiring a British independent education for their children," comments Philip Kaye, head of Private Client Services at Salamanca Group. "We support many high-net-worth clients relocating to the UK with dedicated advice, attention and services, from immigration advice to property sourcing and personal security. Yet it is clear that their children lie at the core of their decisions and our education advice is widely sought and highly valued."

For domestic parents in the UK, the changing intake of schools to include international pupils may be cause for consideration due to not only the positive impact, but also the potential for the quintessential 'British' culture and identity of UK schools to become diluted. Magoo Giles, head of Knightsbridge School, comments: "When I set up the school in 2006, I knew that the make-up of the school would be very multicultural, but I also knew that many people liked the all-rounded approach of the British system. As a result, I created a code of conduct for everyone that would/could cross boundaries and would give some basic rules for global citizens that should maintain harmony and connect people."

For UK nationals moving abroad, there is an array of factors to take into consideration, and core to these is the protection and wellbeing of the family. Schooling should be carefully considered, in particular when searching for an excellent British education abroad. David Hanson, chief executive of IAPS (Independent Association of Prep Schools), has the following words of advice: "This country is renowned for having the best independent schools in the world and hundreds of 'British' schools are opening every year across the globe as a result. These schools are of varying quality, however, and parents must be vigilant when looking around, to ask questions and check what accreditations the school holds, such as membership of a schools' association like IAPS."

The value of a British education, whether you are a UK parent or an international parent, remains the same: it is the opportunities that come with your child belonging to a community that is inextricably linked, and the doors that this can open at tertiary and career level. It is also the ability to have your child schooled in one of the most historic and yet innovative education systems in the world, adding exponential value to a child's future life chances.

• Gabrielle Villani is Head of Education Advisory at Salamanca Group and specialises in providing education consultancy for parents and businesses. [salamanca-group.com](http://salamanca-group.com)

# FUNDING THE *future*

*Parents must consider all the options to help secure their child's education, starting with saving as early as possible*

Words: GABRIELLE VILLANI

Paying for private school fees can be akin to trying to climb to the summit of Everest. The impact of the recession and the rise of independent school fees year on year has meant that paying for education has become an ever-increasing challenge. For many families it is not an overstatement to consider school fees as 'the second mortgage'.

With the average annual cost of boarding now exceeding the average annual gross UK salary of £26,500 as reported by the Office for National Statistics, the best thing parents can do is to be organised and start saving as early as possible. Findings of the 2014 Independent Schools Council (ISC) Census found that across Britain the average annual fees for day school are £12,723, compared with £28,788 on average at boarding schools. In London, day school fees can be much higher.

So what can you do as parents to fund your child's future and save for school fees? Beyond using general savings options, such as stocks and shares, ISAs and unit trusts, set out an education plan based on your individual needs and family circumstances. Some parents opt to school their children in the maintained sector until later in their education, to give themselves more time to save. By doing this, the advantage of starting to invest regularly from when your child is born means you have over a decade until your child starts secondary school. Simon Lambert, editor of [thisismoney.co.uk](http://thisismoney.co.uk), advises: "The longer term an investment the more risk you can afford to take to build up its value and it may be worth shifting to a less high-risk investment as the days when you will need to start paying approach."

Other parents will wish for their child to be schooled at the earliest beginnings of independent pre-prep and prep education. Taking into account the annual cost of full-time childcare, which in London amounts to just under £14,000 a



*\* Manage your finances carefully to ensure you have enough money for your child's all-important school days*



year for a full-time nursery place according to a report by the Daycare Trust and the Family & Parenting Institute, the difference between servicing these costs and the eventual cost of private education narrows.

### Struggle and sacrifice

There is help at hand for parents facing the huge financial commitment of private school fees. Many schools will have a bursar who will be able to offer advice about the practicalities of fee payments. Paying monthly via direct debit or standing order rather than termly may help, along with the offer of sibling discounts at some schools. Confirm the cost of registration fees and deposits, along with the actual cost of termly school fees, by factoring in all the incidentals and additional extras (including clubs, trips and school meals) and alter your budget accordingly.

David Hanson, chief executive of IAPS (Independent Association of Prep Schools), comments:

"Of course, paying school fees is rarely something parents are able to do without careful financial consideration. Many parents freely admit that they struggle to meet the fees, and make sacrifices to do so. Our schools respect that struggle. One third of the parents of private school children receive assistance with the fees, and you should always talk to the school about what might be possible."

Unsurprisingly, the need for parents' assistance with school fees is ever increasing. The 2013 ISC Census revealed that 33.7 per cent of pupils in ISC schools (166,643 pupils in total) received some sort of assistance with fees and that four out of five of those received assistance direct from the school. Guidance from UK Boarding Schools is to also look at other options beyond your child's school: "There are various education trusts that may help with fees, but under stringent conditions and usually only in special circumstances."

Looking ahead, find out which senior schools offer means-tested bursaries and scholarships, particularly if your child has a talent in a particular area, such as academia, the arts or sports. Many senior schools and some preparatory schools offer scholarships to attract the most academically able and talented children. Of those offered, most are academic, followed by music and artistic scholarships. These are usually awarded following a competitive exam and/or interview. Some scholarships may provide

a reduction in fees which, depending on the school, may vary from a 20 to 50 per cent reduction for successful scholarship applicants. Scholarship applications are normally open to all, regardless of financial need or circumstance.

Additionally, bursaries, which are school grants for fee assistance, are another option. The award of bursaries is usually dependent on a means test of family income, including capital assets. Priority may be given to current students whose parents have had to seek financial support. Each school will operate its own bursary policy and procedures, and each case is subject to the discretion of the school. Schools will differ in their expectations for certain criteria to be met and each school will outline a range of qualifying considerations.

Whatever your family's individual situation, the importance of saving for your child's future

is common to all parents. Peter McGahan, managing director at Professional Adviser, notes: "There are different views taken by parents on saving. Some like to create a separate pot for each area (school, holidays, weddings etc). Others like to save in one tax efficient area and then draw on that for whatever life throws at them. Either way, the two key issues are tax efficiency and careful management of the funds,

especially as the child gets closer to using the capital."

Xavier Isaac, head of Trust & Fiduciary at Salamanca Group, adds: "Trusts can play an important role as they enable parents or grandparents to set aside a lump sum for their children's education and ensure this money is ring-fenced if anything unforeseen were to happen to them in the future. Trusts can also provide a way of introducing children to wealth more generally and educating them on the responsibilities it brings, by managing the process in a controlled way without giving them full access and spending ability from day one."

By seeking professional financial advice and liaising with your child's school to explore various financial options, parents can do much to help secure their child's education well into the future.

● *Gabrielle Villani is Head of Education Advisory at Salamanca Group and specialises in providing education consultancy for parents and businesses. [salamanca-group.com](http://salamanca-group.com)*



# MINDFULNESS & *Meditation*

Schools in the UK are considering including mindfulness classes to improve concentration and reduce stress

Words: SASHA SCOTT

**T**he practice of mindfulness has gained a huge following in the private and professional corporate sectors in the past two years. The benefits of mindfulness on concentration and productivity have been championed by massive companies such as Google and Procter & Gamble, and even the ultra-conservative House of Commons has taken part in recent mindfulness training. Now the concept is filtering through to the education sector, where it is being taken up by primary and secondary schools in the UK.

Minister of state for schools David Laws recently told MPs that the Department of Education is “very interested in promoting this [mindfulness] and we certainly think that it is an area that merits consideration based on the evidence we’ve seen to date.”

Mindfulness, simply put, is the skill of being present and aware, moment by moment, whatever the circumstances. Mindfulness meditation exercises can help young people concentrate on the moment and start seeing clearly what is happening in their lives.

The idea of teaching “resilience” is moving from the business world into the education mainstream, to enable today’s pupils to successfully manage stress and anxiety in their lives, throughout their school career.

The research seems convincing. In 2012, Professor Willem Kuyken at Exeter University carried out a control trial on the effects of mindfulness in 12 varied secondary schools. They found significant impacts on depression, stress and wellbeing.

The Oxford Mindfulness Centre (part of the Oxford University Department of Psychiatry) is currently carrying out clinical research into mindfulness and the effects on children and adults. The research already published has shown that mindfulness is proven to improve clarity and focus, motivation and mental resilience, whilst reducing stress and anxiety. The research has also shown mindfulness may help with such disorders as autism and ADHD.

Professor Mark Williams, director of the Centre, believes teaching children mindfulness is vital to their wellbeing. He says average levels of anxiety are on the rise and “unless we do something now, our children are likely to be more stressed than ever by the time they become adults.” In February 2014, over 120 schools in the UK,

particularly those in the private sector, were already involved in the practice of mindfulness.

Tonbridge School in Kent and Hampton School in Middlesex were the first British schools to include mindfulness in the curriculum for all 13- and 14-year-olds in 2010.

Anthony Seldon, headmaster of boarding school Wellington College, has said his pupils often take part in a two-minute “stillness period” during assemblies, whilst pupils in Years 9 and 10 have a weekly mindfulness session.

He recently commented: “With the decline in religious assemblies, the chance to be quiet and reflect during the school day is being lost at a time when it is needed more than ever as young people experience increasingly frantic pressure in their lives. This is severely damaging to the mental health of young people... In

mindfulness, we have a powerful, scientifically proven approach that can make a real difference, and which can be learnt by young people whilst still at school.”

Recently, the Inclusive Group undertook a mindfulness session with some Year 7 and 8 pupils for a private school in London. The lesson concentrated on simple mindfulness exercises, and the pupils (and staff) were so enthusiastic that they are considering regular mindfulness classes for the older pupils.

Growing numbers of primary schools are also introducing the practice of mindfulness and meditation.

A school in west London has started a simple meditation technique after morning and lunch break to help students find a quiet space and to bring a sense of calm to a disruptive classroom.

The recently set up not-for-profit organisation The Mindfulness Foundation is working on the promotion of mindfulness education in the UK. It plans to increase awareness of mindfulness education, and attract funders and researchers to carry out more mindfulness research.

So, it seems that primary and secondary schools are convinced of the benefits of mindfulness on their pupils – look out for classes on the curriculum appearing near you!

- For information on Sasha Scott, CEO of Inclusive Guidance, which provides professional mindfulness coaching to the corporate and education sectors, email [sasha@inclusivegroup.co.uk](mailto:sasha@inclusivegroup.co.uk) or visit [inclusiveguidance.co.uk](http://inclusiveguidance.co.uk)

# EXCLUSIVE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL GUIDE 2014

The A to Z of Exclusive's top schools nationwide

## Alleyn's

A hugely popular co-ed London day school, with an 'artsy' vibe. (Alumni include Jude Law and Sam West and the National Youth Theatre was founded here in 1956.) It's also got a reputation for academic excellence, too, with places hard fought for and well earned.

The school offers a first-class all-round education, probably better suited to children with a higher intellectual promise and academic potential. 'Really good at channelling the ability of my feisty child,' says one parent – this is probably due to the school's wide-ranging and vibrant curriculum and co-curriculum with leadership opportunities for all not just a select few.

**Website** [alleyns.org.uk](http://alleyns.org.uk)

**Email** [enquiries@alleyns.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@alleyns.org.uk)

**Telephone** 020 8557 1500

**Address** Alleyn's School, Townley Road, Dulwich, London, SE22 8SU

**Head** Junior Mark O'Donnell

Senior Dr Gary Savage

**Ages** Junior: 4-11. Senior: 11-18

**Term Fees** £4,713-£5,529

**Boys/Girls/Mixed** Mixed

Yorkshire moors. We suspect that in this world of instant gratification it must be a special place to grow up – children are encouraged to look beyond material goals, to ask themselves difficult questions and to learn to distinguish between transient appetites and real fulfilment. It's what the school calls its 'Compass for Life'.

Of special note is the Friendship Holiday established in 2004 in conjunction with Oak Field School in Nottingham, a specialist Sports College for students with mental, physical and various other disabilities. The Holiday takes place at Ampleforth with the middle sixth students hosting the Oak Field students for a week – and not just for the odd football match but 24/7, sharing dormitories, meals and all activities.

**Website** [ampleforth.org.uk](http://ampleforth.org.uk)

**Email** [admissions@ampleforth.org.uk](mailto:admissions@ampleforth.org.uk)

**Telephone** 01439 766000

**Address** Ampleforth Abbey, York, YO62 4EN

**Head** Father Gabriel Everitt

**Ages** 13-18

**Term Fees** Day: £6,370;

Boarding: £9,747

**Boys/Girls/Mixed** Mixed

## Ampleforth

Ampleforth is a Catholic, Benedictine school under the guidance and care of the monks of Ampleforth, set in a beautiful valley below the North



## Bassett House School

A preparatory school for children aged 3 to 11 years old based in north Kensington. An ethos of confident,

## Bradfield College

This co-ed boarding school in the pretty Berkshire village of Bradfield offers an all-round education with brilliant pastoral care. The young staff bring a real energy to the place. There's co-ed boarding in Year 9 so pupils really get to know each other before moving into traditional houses in Year 10 onwards. 'A super-friendly school,' says one mother.

**Website** [bradfieldcollege.org.uk](http://bradfieldcollege.org.uk)

**Email** [admissions@bradfieldcollege.org.uk](mailto:admissions@bradfieldcollege.org.uk)

**Telephone** 0118 964 4516

**Head** Simon Henderson

**Ages** 13-18

**Term Fees** Day: £8,800;

Boarding: £11,100

**Girls/Boys/Mixed** Mixed

**Number of pupils** 765

**Admissions procedure**

Tours every Saturday morning by appointment during term time to see the College in action

on a normal working Saturday.

Registration – £175 fee.

Pupil admissions interview in

Lent or Summer Term of Year 6, or Michaelmas Term of Year 7 followed by an offer of a place. Following Stages 1-3 we will consider whether we can make an offer. This is done in consultation with an admissions interviewer, a housemaster or housemistress and a reference from the child's current school.

**Famous Alumni** Louis de Bernières and Richard Adams (authors), Benedict Allen (explorer), Tony Hancock, Mark Nicholas (cricketer and broadcaster), Lord Owen, Sir Martin Ryle (astronomer)

**How would you describe your school?**

Character-building, inclusive, family-friendly.

**Your school's proudest achievement** Producing pro-active and happy pupils equipped with life skills.

**What is your top tip to parents on choosing the right school?**

Take particular notice of the people at the school and the relationships between pupils and staff.

creative and independent learning abounds here. 'It's a really happy school,' says one mother. A non-selective school, teaching is supportive yet challenging and always takes into account the individual needs of the children.

Children stay until the age of 11, when they move to their senior schools. Boys are encouraged to stay at the school for their preparatory education but some may take 7+ and 8+ assessment tests to move earlier. Bassett House has two sister schools, Orchard House

School in Chiswick and Prospect House School in Putney. In the current academic year there are around 190 children in the school.

**Website** [bassetths.org.uk](http://bassetths.org.uk)

**Email** [info@bassetths.org.uk](mailto:info@bassetths.org.uk)

**Telephone** 020 8969 0313

**Address** Bassett House School, 60 Bassett Road, London, W10 6JP

**Head** Philippa Cawthorne

**Ages** 3-11

**Term Fees** £5,130-£5,350

**Boys/Girls/Mixed** Mixed



Broomwood Hall

## Broomwood Hall

A lovely prep school, offering mixed pre-prep on two different sites, with the girls moving to the school located on Nightingale Lane and boys onto Northcote Lodge. Great for building confidence and a 'can-do' attitude in the girls who attend.

**Website** [broomwood.co.uk](http://broomwood.co.uk)

**Email** [admissions@northwoodschools.com](mailto:admissions@northwoodschools.com)

**Telephone** 020 8682 8830

**Head** Lower School

Mrs Sarah Graham

Upper School

Mrs Carole Jenkinson

**Ages** 4-13

**Term Fees** £4,560-£5,605

**Girls/Boys/Mixed** Boys 4-8, girls 4-13

**Number of pupils** 600

**Admissions procedure**

Attend an open day to receive a formal registration form (fee £100) Readiness assessment of child a year prior to entry Offer letter sent out October before entry (£2,000 deposit)

**Famous Alumni** Jerome Stark

**How would you describe your school?**

Dynamic, nurturing, traditional.

**Your school's proudest achievement**

Getting the best out of every child.

**What is your top tip to parents on choosing the right school?**

Find a school where the ethos matches yours and find a school preferably within walking distance.

## Benenden

Fantastic space for the amount of girls here. Some report it can feel a bit 'overwhelming' for 11-year-olds, though everyone seems to agree it's 'perfect for 13-year-olds and upwards.'

The Sixth Form is brilliant, with a separate house so girls feel more grown up – no wonder very few girls leave in Sixth Form. A great school and, contrary to some rumours, there's no more sway towards sport than there is to art or drama. 'My daughter's a real all-rounder and the school suited her down to the ground,' says one mother. It's cool to work hard and get good results and all girls go on to university.

**Website** [benenden.kent.sch.uk](http://benenden.kent.sch.uk)

**Email** [registry@benenden.kent.sch.uk](mailto:registry@benenden.kent.sch.uk)

**Telephone** 01580 240592

**Address** Benenden School, Cranbrook, Kent, TN17 4AA

**Head** Samantha Price, MA (Edinburgh), PGCE

**Ages** 11-18

**Term Fees** £11,150

**Boys/Girls/Mixed** Girls

school is hugely popular but be warned – Common Entrance requirements have recently been raised and a new pre-test assessment system is in place.

**Website** [brightoncollege.org.uk](http://brightoncollege.org.uk)

**Email** [seniorsch@brightoncollege.net](mailto:seniorsch@brightoncollege.net)

**Telephone** 01273 704200

**Address** Eastern Road, Brighton, East Sussex, BN2 0AL

**Head** Richard Cairns

**Ages** 11-18

**Term fees** Day: £6,800;

Boarding: £10,930

**Boys/Girls/Mixed** Mixed

## Bryanston College

One-to-one tutoring, Smartphone apps to record progress, a space to flourish, and a vibrant co-educational full-boarding ethos make this school a must-visit. The Sanger Centre for Science and Mathematics is impressive and with all pupils studying Maths, Physics, Chemistry and Biology during their first three years at Bryanston and 60 per cent of Sixth Formers studying at least one of these subjects, good use is made of the new facilities. Over a hundred activities are on offer from rock climbing to scuba diving.

**Website** [bryanston.co.uk](http://bryanston.co.uk)

**Email** [admissions@bryanston.co.uk](mailto:admissions@bryanston.co.uk)

**Telephone** 01258 452411

**Address** Blandford, Dorset, DT11 0PX

**Head** Sarah Thomas

**Ages** 13-18

**Term Fees** £11,162

**Boys/Girls/Mixed** Mixed

## Brighton College

Named Independent School of the Year 2013-14 as well as a plethora of other accolades. Richard Cairns is the dynamic headmaster who challenges prospective parents to think about whether it's them or their children that really want a 'national trust' school setting. Record exam results and over 29 Oxbridge offers for 2014. This mixed

## Berkhamsted School

What's known as a 'diamond school' in which students are taught co-educationally in Prep and Sixth Form but independently between the ages of 11 and 16. Particularly known for its collegiate system.

Many students join the school's Combined Cadet Force, making them eligible for a wide range of courses from leadership to survival, to gaining their private pilot's licence.

**Website** [berkhamstedschool.org](http://berkhamstedschool.org)

**Email** [admissions@berkhamstedschool.org](mailto:admissions@berkhamstedschool.org)

**Telephone** 01442 358001

**Head** Mark S Steed

**Ages** 3-18

**Term Fees** £3,160-£6,180

**Girls/Boys/Mixed** Mixed Pre-Prep & Prep/Girls/Boys/Mixed Sixth

**Number of pupils** 1,593

**Admissions procedure**

We suggest that parents of prospective pupils visit the school before deciding to register their son or daughter. We offer a number of ways in which you can find out more – Open Days, Principal's tours or Head's tours.

Pre-Prep – offers made for places.

Prep & Senior – assessments held in year preceding entry.

Sixth – offers based on predicted GCSE grades and interview with head of Sixth.

**Famous Alumni**

Graham Greene (author), Robin Knox-Johnston (sailor), Clementine Churchill, Sir Winston Churchill's wife, Antony Hopkins (composer and broadcaster), Talulah Riley (actor), James Rodwell (England Rugby Sevens).

**How would you describe your school?**

Diamond structure, community, outstanding.

**Your school's proudest achievement** To consistently produce pupils who achieve excellent academic standards but not at the expense of the wider attributes of a good education.

**What is your top tip to parents on choosing the right school?** Visit a school before you decide... You cannot truly see and feel all each has to offer through a website.

## Bute House

Parents can't believe their luck on securing a place for their daughter at this happy school. 'Exceptional teaching' and 'an amazing way to start school' are the verdict of two.

It has an enviable 11+ list of leavers with over 26 girls in 2014 going to St Paul's Girls School alone. This is even more impressive given entrance into Reception is by ballot and the school prides itself on its non-competitive ethos. The application deadlines are according to your child's date of birth.

**Website** [butehouse.co.uk](http://butehouse.co.uk)

**Email** [mail@butehouse.co.uk](mailto:mail@butehouse.co.uk)

**Telephone** 020 7603 7381

**Address** Luxemburg Gardens, Hammersmith, London, W6 7EA

**Head** Helen Lowe

**Ages** 4-11

**Term Fees** £4,439

**Boys/Girls/Mixed** Girls

## Caldicott

A popular headmaster, PE every day, over 40 acres of Buckinghamshire green belt land, boarding and day, with a daily shuttle bus service from Notting Hill, Chiswick and Brook Green – what's not to like? Even better, all academic work is done in school hours, so there's no homework. Perfect for sporty boys and those who love lots of lovely, fresh air.

**Website** [caldicott.com](http://caldicott.com)

**Email** [office@caldicott.com](mailto:office@caldicott.com)

**Telephone** 01753 649300

**Address** Caldicott, Crown Lane, Farnham Royal, Bucks SL2 3SL

**Head** Simon Doggart

**Ages** 7-13

**Term Fees** Boarding: £7,805;

Day: £4,925-£5,395

**Boys/Girls/Mixed** Boys

## Cothill House

We hear of a place where boys are allowed to be boys. The school has a really involved headmaster, Mr Bailey, who, himself, is an old boy of the school. According to one mother, the best thing about the school is 'polite, happy boys with a huge sense of fun.' What's more, The Cothill Educational Trust owns a chateau near Toulouse where all boys in their penultimate year spend a term – it operates like a normal school except all the lessons are in French.

**Website** [cothill.net](http://cothill.net)



**Cothill House**

**Email** [jane@cothill.net](mailto:jane@cothill.net)

**Telephone** 01865 390800

**Address** Cothill House, nr. Abingdon, Oxon, OX13 6JL

**Head** Duncan Bailey

**Ages** 8-13

**Term Fees** £7,890

**Boys/Girls/Mixed** Boys

## Colet Court

Colet Court, the preparatory school of St Paul's School, is a dynamic and inspiring learning environment. One parent describes it as 'a large school with a small school atmosphere'. Brace yourself for a tough selection process as more than a dozen boys apply for each place. The school prides itself on its diverse intake and on considering each potential pupil on merit alone. There's a bursary and fee support system in place.

**Website** [coletcourt.org.uk](http://coletcourt.org.uk)

**Email** [enquiriescc@stpaulsschool.org.uk](mailto:enquiriescc@stpaulsschool.org.uk)

**Telephone** 020 8748 3461

**Address** Colet Court, St Paul's Preparatory School, Lonsdale Road, London, SW13 9JT

**Head** Tim Meunier

**Ages** 7-13

**Term fees** £5,243

**Boys/Girls/Mixed** Boys

## Cumnor House

Both Cumnor House Boys' School and Girls' School manage to take a group of non-selective, diverse children and achieve stellar results all round. Children go on to a wide range of public and grammar schools. Sport

is a big thing here, too, with bags of opportunities. A hugely popular choice if you live in the Croydon area.

**Website** [cumnorhouse.com](http://cumnorhouse.com)

**Email** [admin@cumnorhouse.com](mailto:admin@cumnorhouse.com)

**Telephone** 020 8660 3445

**Address** 168 Pampisford Road, South Croydon, Surrey, CR2 6DA

**Head** Peter Clare-Hunt (boys' school); Peter Kelly (girls' school)

**Ages** Boys 4-13; girls 4-11; nursery 2-4

**Term Fees** £3,105-£3,735

**Boys/Girls/Mixed** Mixed

## Danes Hill

This fabulous mixed prep in Oxshott, Surrey, boasts huge grounds and 56 acres of land, meaning that sport and outdoor time is what it's all about. It's a large school with around 600 children and, while some children might find this slightly intimidating at first, it does mean that it can offer an unusually broad curriculum and lots of specialist staff – Classical Greek, anyone? Expect a high standard of teaching both in the classroom and on the sports fields.

**Website** [daneshillschool.co.uk](http://daneshillschool.co.uk)

**Email** [registrar@daneshillschool.co.uk](mailto:registrar@daneshillschool.co.uk)

**Telephone** 01372 842509

**Address** Danes Hill School, Leatherhead Road, Oxshott, Surrey, KT22 0JG

**Head** W D Murdock

**Ages** 3-13

**Term Fees** £11,430-£16,110 per annum

**Boys/Girls/Mixed** Mixed

## Davenies

As the school itself explains, 'Davenies does not just happen to be a boys'

school, it is very deliberately so.'

Whether you have a future prop forward or a violinist in your midst, you get the sense that Davenies will look after and nurture both children in equal measure. It doesn't appear to be a school with a one-size-fits-all approach and that's a huge appeal to parents. 'They seemed to really understand my son,' says one former parent. It offers a very impressive, integral and cross-curricular approach to learning support.

**Website** [davenies.co.uk](http://davenies.co.uk)

**Email** [office@davenies.co.uk](mailto:office@davenies.co.uk)

**Telephone** 01494 685400

**Address** Station Road, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, HP9 1AA

**Head** C Watson

**Ages** 4-13

**Term Fee** £3,895-£4,975

**Boys/Girls/Mixed** Boys

## Devonshire House Prep School

A co-ed independent IAPS day school for children from 2½ to 11 for girls and to 13 for boys. The school is based in four large Victorian houses in Hampstead surrounded by walled gardens. It currently has 580 pupils with just over half boys. 'It's got the international feel we were after,' says one parent who came from France.

After finishing at Devonshire House most pupils transfer to London day schools. Over the past five years, about half the boys have gone to either Westminster School, University College School, St Paul's School, Highgate School or City of London School. Over the same period about half the girls have transferred to either St Paul's Girls' School, South Hampstead High School, North London Collegiate School, Francis Holland School or the City of London School for Girls. Pupils also progress to boarding schools such as Wycombe Abbey, Winchester College and Eton College.

**Website** [devonshirehouseschool.co.uk](http://devonshirehouseschool.co.uk)

**Email** [enquiries@devonshirehousepreschool.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@devonshirehousepreschool.co.uk)

**Telephone** 020 7435 1916

**Address** 2 Arkwright Road, Hampstead, London, NW3 6AE

**Head** S Piper

**Ages** 2½-13

**Term Fees** £4,675-£5,100

**Boys/Girls/Mixed** Mixed



Dragon School

## Dragon School

This co-ed boarding and day school in Oxford was founded in 1877 by a group of university dons for their own children. A significant proportion of boarders at the Dragon are from London families attracted by the significant grounds and the happy atmosphere.

Boarders get their work done but also have time to enjoy a wide range of activities and childhood freedoms. It introduces children to boarding at a younger age in a more supportive and nurturing environment, ensuring they find the transition at 13 much,

much easier. Over and above the first-rate academic teaching there is lots on offer, including tennis and athletics training in Mallorca over the Easter Holidays, an Eco Conference and the chance to quiz the local MP.

**Website** [dragonschool.org](http://dragonschool.org)  
**Email** [admissions@dragonschool.org](mailto:admissions@dragonschool.org)  
**Telephone** 01865 315400  
**Address** Bardwell Road, Oxford, OX2 6SS  
**Head** John Baugh  
**Ages** 4-13  
**Term Fees** Day £6,230; Boarding £8,980  
**Boys/Girls/Mixed** Mixed

## Emanuel

First and foremost, Emanuel is an academic institution. The best performing girls and boys get straight A\*s at GCSE and A-Level and go on to prestigious universities such as Oxford and Cambridge. However, unusually among other independent schools in the area, they do not only admit the most academically able pupils – also pupils with a talent in music, art, drama and sport.

They award more scholarships in art, music, sport and drama than any other school in London, actively encouraging all pupils to take part and pursue their passions, whether in sports teams or creatively through drama, music and art, politics,

entrepreneurism, mentoring or debating. A happy and vibrant school with a great focus on sport and drama as well as academics.

**Website** [emanuel.org.uk](http://emanuel.org.uk)  
**Email** [enquiries@emanuel.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@emanuel.org.uk)  
**Telephone** 020 8870 4171  
**Head** Mark Hanley-Browne  
**Age range** 10-18  
**Term Fees** £5,468  
**Boys/Girls/Mixed** Mixed  
**Number of pupils** 775  
**Admissions procedure** We ask for the latest school report, we interview all the children at 10+ and 11+ before the exam, we write for a reference from the feeder school head and at 10+ and 11+ the children sit exams in

## Dulwich Prep

A big busy school with so much going on that each boy can find what he likes and go with it. The whole school oozes a sense of fun, where it's ok to be a boy and be loud and boisterous at times, but also know when it's not appropriate. There's huge respect for teachers from the boys, but they can also have a laugh with them. Pupils are from all over London and Kent, with many coming on school run buses as well as trains.

A staggering breadth of activities is on offer. 'My 10-year-old has tried chess, bee-keeping, squash, junior concert band, weaving and coding to name but a few. Next on his list is pistol shooting and fencing!' says one mother. **Website** [dulwichpreplondon.org](http://dulwichpreplondon.org)  
**Email** [registrar@dulwichpreplondon.org](mailto:registrar@dulwichpreplondon.org)  
**Telephone** 020 8766 5525  
**Address** 42 Alleyn Park, London, SE21 7AA  
**Head** Michael Roulston  
**Ages** 3-13  
**Term Fees** £3,470-£5,395  
**Boys/Girls/Mixed** Boys

## Eaton House Belgravia & The Manor

A family-run group of schools encompassing six individual schools around Clapham, Belgravia and south Kensington. The Eaton House Schools aim to develop and nurture each pupil and encourage them to achieve

English, Maths and verbal reasoning. At 13+ it is English, Maths, Science and a language.

**Famous Alumni**  
Sir Tim Berners-Lee (founder of the World Wide Web), Michel Roux Jnr, Peter Hain, Naveen Andrews, Michael Aspel  
**How would you describe your school?** Friendly, rounded, fulfilling.  
**Your school's proudest achievement**  
Our proudest moment is when any pupil leaves for the destination for which they are best suited.  
**What is your top tip to parents on choosing the right school?**  
Do your research, visit the school and talk to the current pupils and staff.

their best in the academic, artistic and sporting fields with an emphasis on encouraging individual areas of talent as well as instilling confidence, self-worth and respect for others – and the proof is the outstanding results on exit on a non-selective intake. Parents also report a real sense that their child matters, and children who may have got lost in a bigger London prep flourish at Eaton House. All the schools operate a first-come first-served entry process at Nursery and Kindergarten level.

**Website** [eatonhouseschools.com](http://eatonhouseschools.com)  
**Email** [admin@eatonhouseschools.com](mailto:admin@eatonhouseschools.com)  
**Telephone** 020 7924 6000  
**Address** 3-5 Eaton Gate, London, SW1W 9BA  
**Head** Lucy Watts  
**Ages** 4-8  
**Term Fees** £4,710  
**Boys/Girls/Mixed** Boys  
**Eaton House The Manor**  
**Website** [eatonhouseschools.com](http://eatonhouseschools.com)  
**Email** [admin@eatonhouseschools.com](mailto:admin@eatonhouseschools.com)  
**Telephone** 020 7924 6000  
**Address** 58 Clapham Common Northside, London, SW4 9RU  
**Head** Jeremy Edwards  
**Ages** 8-13  
**Term Fees** £5,640  
**Boys/Girls/Mixed** Boys

## Feltonfleet

Not many schools offer 25 acres of space to roam, non-selective entry and within easy reach of Southwest London. Children can attend this Surrey-based school as day pupils, boarders or as flexi-boarders, meaning it's the perfect option for many families.

Add in extensive playing fields, tennis courts, an indoor swimming pool, a £500,000 floodlit all-weather Astroturf pitch, a new climbing wall and an impressive set of results at Common Entrance and you can see why Feltonfleet proves enduringly popular. 'A lovely, welcoming school,' according to one parent we spoke to. **Website** [feltonfleet.co.uk](http://feltonfleet.co.uk)  
**Email** [office@feltonfleet.co.uk](mailto:office@feltonfleet.co.uk)  
**Telephone** 01932 862264  
**Address** Byfleet Road, Cobham, Surrey, KT11 1DR  
**Head** Alastair Morrison  
**Ages** 3-13  
**Term Fees** Boarding £6,955; Day £5,060

## Fettes College Prep

This Edinburgh Prep is a warm, nurturing place, where the emphasis is on a family atmosphere for both day pupils and boarders. The yearly trip to France, regular skiing trips and trip to Rome with the head of Classics in Year 10 are especially popular.

**Website** [fettes.com](http://fettes.com)

**Email** [admissions@fettes.com](mailto:admissions@fettes.com)

**Telephone** 0131 311 6744

**Head** Adam Edwards

**Ages** 7-13

**Term Fees** Boarding: £7,275;

Day: £4,655

**Girls/Boys/Mixed** Mixed

**Number of pupils** 205

### Admissions procedure

Interviews and assessments at all age groups.

**How would you describe your school?** Vibrant, caring, maximising.

**Your school's proudest achievement** The quotes we get from our children when we ask what they love about Fettes Prep: they all refer to feeling cared for, encouraged and happy.

### What is your top tip to parents on choosing the right school?

Visit a school during term time and if it appeals, ask for your son or daughter to have a taster day.



Ampleforth

and having an incredibly glamorous headteacher. As befits a central London catchment, children mix with an international set.

A Church of England School, the ethos is Christian but girls of all nationalities and religions are welcomed.

**Website** [fhs-sw1.org.uk](http://fhs-sw1.org.uk)

**Email** [education@fhs-sw1.org.uk](mailto:education@fhs-sw1.org.uk)

**Telephone** 020 7730 2971

**Address** Francis Holland School, 39

Graham Terrace, London, SW1W 8JF

**Head** Lucy Elphinstone

**Ages** 4-18

**Term Fees** £5,095-£5,790

**Boys/Girls/Mixed** Girls

best in all areas, academic, sporting and performing arts. 'My daughter's about middle of the class academically,' says one parent, 'but the school went over and above to make sure she found an area to shine – in the performing arts.'

You can spot these confident girls from a mile off with their purple berets and purple-checked uniform. 11+ leavers go to a mix of boarding schools and premier London day schools and with a range of scholarships to, amongst others, Cheltenham Ladies College and Wycombe Abbey.

**Website** [glendowerprep.org](http://glendowerprep.org)

**Email** [admissions@gwendowerprep.org](mailto:admissions@gwendowerprep.org)

**Telephone** 020 7370 1927

**Address** Glendower Preparatory

School, 86-87 Queen's Gate,

London, SW7 5JX

**Head** Sarah Knollys

**Ages** 4-11

**Term Fees** £5,500

**Boys/Girls/Mixed** Girls

## Finton House

The school's headmaster has three young children and it shows in the great way the school is run – although as we went to print it had been announced he will be leaving at the end of the 2015 academic year. Parents love this co-ed's inclusivity and its focus on bringing out the best (whatever that may be) in all the children in different areas. Boys and girls are said to thrive in its calm, joyful, friendly atmosphere.

One parent describes it as 'a tightly run ship which gives the appearance of gentle ease. Teaching is superb, attrition rate very low, more academic scholarships achieved than you can imagine, humble and responsive. Most parents don't know how good they have it and it's very hard to know where to go to next.'

**Website** [fintonhouse.org.uk](http://fintonhouse.org.uk)

**Email** [office@fintonhouse.org.uk](mailto:office@fintonhouse.org.uk)

**Telephone** 020 8682 0921

**Address** Finton House School, 171

Trinity Road, London, SW17 7HL

**Head** Adrian Floyd

**Ages** 4-11

**Term Fees** £4,355-£4,640

**Boys/Girls/Mixed** Mixed

## Francis Holland School SW1

Leading London independent day school for girls aged 4 to 18 based near Sloane Square. 'My 16-year-old loves it because they treat her like an adult,' says one parent.

There is a sister school based near Regents Park, which has a reputation for being slightly more academic

## Fulham Prep

A family-run school, founded in September 1996 by the present headteacher, Mrs Jane Emmett, who has over 30 years' experience in education, having taught in both the state and independent sectors. The challenging academic programme at Fulham Prep is broadly based on National Curriculum guidelines but is extended to meet the more rigorous requirements of the 11+ and 13+ entrance examinations. There's a variety of after-school clubs on offer and a supervised homework club for Years 4-8, which must be a godsend for working parents.

**Website** [fulhamprep.co.uk](http://fulhamprep.co.uk)

**Email** [admin@fulhamprep.co.uk](mailto:admin@fulhamprep.co.uk)

**Telephone number** 020 7371 9911

**Head** Jane Emmett

**Ages** 4-13 years

**Term Fees** £4,800-£5,325

**Boys/Girls/Mixed** Mixed

**Number of pupils** 600

### Admissions procedure

Non-selective at Reception entry. Admission in order of registration date taking gender and birthday quarter into account.

**What is your top tip to parents on choosing the right school?**

Choose the school that feels right for your family.

## Gordonstoun

It's not all about academia here – this school offers 'the whole broad experience'. Community service is a huge tradition at this Scottish school with every student expected to give up his or her time and effort to benefit another individual or group without expecting reward or return.

**Website** [gordonstoun.org.uk](http://gordonstoun.org.uk)

**Email** [admissions@gordonstoun.org.uk](mailto:admissions@gordonstoun.org.uk)

**Telephone number** 01343 837837

**Head** Simon Reid

**Ages** 8-18

**Term Fees** Boarding: from £10,295; Day: from £7,694

**Girls/Boys/Mixed** Mixed

**Number of pupils** 585

**Admissions procedure**

Visit to school and interview with the Principal. References from current school requested. Parental contract and deposit required. Place confirmed.



Gordonstoun

**Famous Alumni** Heather Stanning and Zara Phillips, Olympic medal winners; Liz MacKean, award-winning journalist; Michael Pritchard, inventor; William Boyd, writer. Former Gordonstoun pupils are distinctive because they work across a huge range of occupations and live all over the world.

**How would you describe your school?** Confidence, character, integrity.

**Your school's proudest achievement**

Producing generations of men and women who genuinely make a difference to the world in which they live, whether at a local, national or international level.

**What is your top tip to parents on choosing the right school?** Visit with an open mind. Make sure you speak to the students about their experiences at the school. Don't be worried about asking any question!

## Gresham's

A beautiful school set in peaceful grounds, offering a broad education without being a hothouse. 'Really relaxed,' says one parent of this high-achieving co-ed school. 'And very unpretentious, too.'

**Website** [greshams.com](http://greshams.com)

**Email** [registrar@greshams.com](mailto:registrar@greshams.com)

**Telephone number** 01263 714500

**Head** Douglas Robb

**Ages** 3-18

**Term Fees** Boarding: £10,230;

Day: £7,620

**Girls/Boys/Mixed** Mixed

**Number of pupils** 850

**Admissions procedure**

Interested parents are invited to visit the school on Open Day or for an individual tour and meeting with the head, before progressing with an application.

**Famous Alumni** Actress Olivia Colman, rugby players Tom and Ben Youngs, entrepreneur Sir James Dyson, composer Benjamin Britten, Nobel Prize winner Sir Alan Lloyd Hodgkin. **Describe your school** Progressive, supportive, friendly.

**What is your top tip to parents on choosing the right school?** Every child is an individual; make your choice of school with this in mind.

## The Harroldian School

A hugely creative school with a laid-back feel, perhaps down to the international mix, lack of uniform and the fact that pupils come from all over London to attend.

Taking pupils from 4-18, The Harroldian is a relative newcomer, having been founded in 1993 on the site of the clubhouse and sports ground between Hammersmith and Barnes for employees of Harrods – hence the name. It's becoming more and more popular with an intake of 989 pupils in September 2013.

With alumni including *Twilight* star Robert Pattinson and actor Tom Sturridge (partner of Sienna Miller), it certainly seems to live up to its artsy, celeb reputation, though our source says it's 'more down to earth than you might think.'

**Website** [harroldian.com](http://harroldian.com)

**Email** [admissions@harroldian.com](mailto:admissions@harroldian.com)

**Telephone** 020 87486117

**Address** Lonsdale Road, London, SW13 9QN

**Head** James Hooke

**Term Fees** £4,302-£6,519

**Boys/Girls/Mixed** Mixed



Northcote Lodge

## Hazelgrove Preparatory School

This beautiful manor house offers an excellent early years' education set within 200 acres of parkland. A purpose-built and self-contained pre-prep and nursery helps the little ones settle in. Children can board from seven, though new pupils join most years.

**Website** [hazlegrove.co.uk](http://hazlegrove.co.uk)

**Email** [admissions@hazlegrove.co.uk](mailto:admissions@hazlegrove.co.uk)

**Telephone number** 01963 442606

**Head** Richard Fenwick

**Ages** 2 ½ -13

**Term Fees** Boarding: from £5,973; Day: from £4,135

**Girls/Boys/Mixed** Mixed

**Number of pupils** 385

**Admissions procedure**

Visitors always welcome on Open Mornings and at other times by appointment. Trial day in school or assessment with Pre-Prep staff for younger children for Nursery or Reception classes.

**Famous Alumni** Peter Wilson – 2012 Olympic Gold Medallist, Maddie Hinch – England Hockey goalkeeper.

**How would you describe your school?** Childhood, family, opportunity.

**Your school's proudest achievement** Our proudest achievement must be that our children consistently go on to do well at their senior schools – often

being leaders from sports team captains to heads of school – borne from our ethos of wanting children to leave Hazelgrove with the right combination of confidence and 'can-do' mentality, together with humility and respect for their fellow men.

**What is your top tip to parents on choosing the right school?** Meet the staff and the children and talk to parents – has the school exceeded their expectations?

## Kensington Prep School

This girls' prep is academically demanding but not a hothouse – there's not much homework. It manages to achieve a good balance of demanding academics with lots of extra-curricular activities. Particularly known for its excellent music provision, with flourishing choirs and orchestras. Feeds into top secondaries, both day and boarding, with girls going on to St Pauls, Godolphin and Latymer, Putney High, LEH and City, Wycombe Abbey, St Mary's Calne and St Mary's Ascot.

'Everything you could wish for from a girls' prep without being too precious,' says one mum. 'Rigorous without being too pushy,' according to another.

**Website** [kensingtonprep.gdst.net](http://kensingtonprep.gdst.net)

**Email** [enquiries@kenprep.gdst.net](mailto:enquiries@kenprep.gdst.net)

**Telephone** 020 7731 9300

**Address** Kensington Prep School, 596 Fulham Road, London, SW6 5PA

**Head** Prudence Lynch

**Term Fees** £4,835

**Boys/Girls/Mixed** Girls

## King's College School, Cambridge

King's College School is famous for educating the choristers and probationers of King's College (home of the 'Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols'), but as well as this the school runs a comprehensive programme of choirs and vocal ensembles for the non-choristers. Music is obviously a huge focus of the school, but academics don't lose out with a broad-based curriculum and a well-rounded education on offer. We particularly liked the idea of a School Listener from outside the school who visits each week to see any child who wants to talk. 'A fun, vibrant school,' says one parent.

**Website** [kcs.cambs.sch.uk](http://kcs.cambs.sch.uk)

**Email** [office@kcs.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@kcs.cambs.sch.uk)

**Telephone** 01223 365814

**Address** King's College School, West Road, Cambridge, CB3 9DN

**Head** Nicholas Robinson

**Ages** 4-13

**Term Fees** Day £4,405;

Boarding £6,860

**Boys/Girls/Mixed** Mixed

## King's School Wimbledon

A mixed public school that wins accolades and awards left, right and centre. Offers IB and A-levels, gives the likes of St Paul's a run for their money and gets a fair chunk of pupils into Oxbridge too. Boys-only until the sixth form when girls can join.

'A truly remarkable place in a beautiful setting,' says the mother of two boys who are there. 'I am continuously blown away by the place. It's one of those schools you can't help feeling proud of and very lucky to have a child there.'

Parents like the fact it's 'not too in town' and that it produces children who are grounded and smart. 'My eldest leaves next year and it will be a very sad day,' says the mum.

**Website** [kcs.org.uk](http://kcs.org.uk)

**Email** [admissions@kcs.org.uk](mailto:admissions@kcs.org.uk)

**Telephone** Junior: 020 8255 5335

Senior: 020 8255 5300

**Address** King's College School, Southside, Wimbledon Common, London, SW19 4TT

**Head** Junior: Gerard Silverlock

Senior: Andrew Halls

**Ages** 7-18

**Term Fees** £5,175-£6,485

**Boys/Girls/Mixed** Boys 7-18/  
Girls 16-18

## Latymer Upper School, Hammersmith

A mixed public school, founded in 1624, with a reputation for encouraging individuality and for being incredibly sociable. General opinion is students are pushed without them realising it, and are encouraged to improve and excel in all areas.

A highly musical school and there are hundreds of clubs, competitions and concerts for them to show off their talents in all genres including rock, pop and classical. 'My child has thrived at the school,' says one parent.

In keeping with its original ethos, the school offers a number of means-tested awards ranging from 15-100 per cent of school fees, with 110 pupils presently receiving one. Applications are not considered until exams and interviews have taken place.

**Website** [latymer-upper.org](http://latymer-upper.org)

**Email** [head@latymer-upper.org](mailto:head@latymer-upper.org)

**Telephone** 020 8629 2024

**Address** Latymer Upper School, King Street, Hammersmith, London, W6 9LR

**Head** David Goodhew

**Ages** 7-11

**Term Fees** £5,770

**Boys/Girls/Mixed** Mixed

## Maidwell Hall

This prep school for boys and girls aged 7 to 13 is small but perfectly formed.

A little gem of a school, one parent describes it as 'just gorgeous!'

It might be small, but this school is highly academic and feeds to the likes of Eton, Radley, Oundle and Rugby. Girls have been on the scene for the last four years and numbers have steadily built until the ratio is roughly 70:30 boys to girls.

Pastoral care is exceptional and the school offers masses of extra-curricular activities – truly a broadening of opportunities. Children report that learning is fun, and the results at Common Entrance are high.

**Website** [maidwellhall.co.uk](http://maidwellhall.co.uk)

**Email** [thesecretary@maidwellhall.co.uk](mailto:thesecretary@maidwellhall.co.uk)

**Telephone** 01604 686234

**Address** Maidwell, Northamptonshire, NN6 9JG

**Head** Robert Lankester

**Ages** 7-13

**Term Fees** £4,635

**Boys/Girls/Mixed** Mixed



Northcote Lodge

**Email** [admissions@marlboroughcollege.org](mailto:admissions@marlboroughcollege.org)

**Telephone** 01672 892200

**Address** Marlborough College, Bath Road, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 1PA

**Head** Jonathan Leigh

**Ages** 13-18

**Term Fees** Boarding £11,030; Day £9,375

**Boys/Girls/Mixed** Mixed

## Millfield

Millfield, an independent school for children aged 13-18, is really known for its sport, which it justly deserves – over 25 pupils compete internationally each year. The sports facilities are 'jaw-droppingly incredible,' according to one mother. However, there is a vast amount on offer elsewhere in the school from art to sculpture to a TV and recording studio, and the school's reputation these days seems to be about cultivating passionate specialists in many areas. Unlikely to suit a shy and retiring type, but for those children who want to grab every opportunity and have a healthy dose of determination, it could be the making of them.

**Website** [millfieldschool.com](http://millfieldschool.com)

**Email** [admissions@millfieldschool.com](mailto:admissions@millfieldschool.com)

**Telephone** 01458 444296



**Address** Street, Somerset, BA16 0YD

**Head** Craig Considine

**Ages** 13-18

**Term fees** £7,270

**Boys/Girl/Mixed** Mixed

## Oundle School

Pupils join this lovely school at 11+, 13+ or 16+ as either day or boarding pupils and it's oversubscribed at the moment. Based around the Northamptonshire town of Oundle, this mixed school keeps pupils busy with a wide-ranging educational curriculum. 'My son has discovered a love of radio producing, and has done regular spots of broadcasting on Oscar Radio, the school's local radio station, which is broadcast to the long-suffering

residents of Northamptonshire,' says one mother. There are musical opportunities and bags of theatre productions.

As well as a stunning DT department and modern languages centre, there's also plenty of chance to socialise. And the girls' uniform is just stunning – floor-length pin-stripe culottes. Add on their excellent academic results – what's not to like?

**Website** oundleschool.org.uk

**Email** admissions@oundleschool.org.uk

**Telephone** 01832 277125

**Address** Oundle School, Oundle, Peterborough, PE8 4EE

**Head** Charles Bush

**Ages** 11-18

**Term Fees** Boarding: from

## Papplewick

A school that lets boys be boys, which celebrates individuality and offers a huge range of activities. 'An exceptionally happy school,' says one parent.

**Website** papplewick.org.uk

**Email** registrar@papplewick.org.uk

**Telephone number** 01344 621488

**Head** Tom Bunbury

**Ages** 6-13

**Term Fees** Boarding: £8,320;

Day: from £4,605

**Girls/Boys/Mixed** Boys only, day, weekly and full boarding.

**Number of pupils** 210

**Admissions procedure**

Non-selective, interview with headmaster and reports from current school.

**Famous Alumni**

Richard Curtis, James Haskell.

**How would you describe your school?** Boys can be boys.

**Your school's proudest**

£24,465 per annum; Day from

£15,675 per annum

**Boys/Girls/Mixed** Mixed

## Northcote Lodge

It's not all work, work, work at Northcote Lodge, as plenty of sport is timetabled every day, making it a great choice for would-be alpha males. Karate is somewhat of an institution here, with quite a few black belts amongst the older boys. 'My boy is sports-mad and loves this place,' reports one parent. Academically, everything's geared to 13+ common entrance, so don't plan to leave at 11.

A great preparation for boarding due to the long school day, which begins with registration at 8.10am and lasts through 5.25pm with tea and prep to round off. 'I love the fact there's no work to do at home,' says one mother.

**Website** northcotelodge.co.uk

**Email** admissions@

northwoodschools.com

**Telephone** 020 8682 8830

**Address** 26 Bolingbroke Grove, London, SW11 6EL

**Head** John Hansford

**Ages** 8-13

**Term Fees** £5,120

**Boys/Girls/Mixed** Boys

## Port Regis

This co-ed prep school set within 140 acres in Dorset is definitely worth a visit. A first-class education and masses on offer from bee-keeping to coding to tapestry. The facilities are second to none and academic standards are high, with 28 of 2014 leavers gaining scholarships to top senior schools including Eton, Bryanston and

**achievement** Our boys are prepared to join in and give everything a go; they're confident, articulate, with a genuine enthusiasm for school life, whilst maintaining a strong work ethic. The results speak for themselves.

**What is your top tip to parents on choosing the right school?** Visit the school, meet the head and staff, and pick up the ethos – by instinct you will know if it's the right fit.

Marlborough. It's a school with brilliant facilities but parents say it's the staff that really make the difference. 'They got my child through Common Entrance without hothousing,' says one parent.

**Website** portregis.com

**Email** admissions@portregis.com

**Telephone** 01747 857914

**Address** Port Regis, Motcombe Park, Shaftesbury, Dorset, SP7 9QA

**Head** Benedict Dunhill

**Ages** 3-13

**Term Fees** Day: £4,999;

Boarding: £7,250-£8,100

**Boys/Girls/Mixed** Mixed

## Radley College

Famously robust, well-organised school that is all about encouraging boys to reach their potential. Amazing facilities, which sends boys on to the very best universities – get your son's name down quick.

**Email** admissions@radley.org.uk

**Telephone number**

01255 548576

**Website** radley.org.uk

**Head** John Moule

**Ages** 13-18

**Term Fees** £11,075

**Girls/Boys/Mixed** Boys

**Number of pupils** 690

**Admissions procedure**

Offers made by registration date, subject to pass at Common Entrance in year of entry.

**Famous Alumni**

Andrew Strauss, Andrew Motion.

**How would you describe your school?**

Purposeful, aiming high.

**Your school's proudest achievement**

Our uncompromising but aspirational and optimistic standards result in us continually impressed with the achievements of many Radleians.

**What is your top tip to parents on choosing the right school?**

Visit the school, talk to boys and staff on a regular school day.

**Important information**

Entry lists closed for 2015-2018.

Waiting lists for 2019-2022. Open for 2023-2027.

## Ravenscourt Park Prep School

Ravenscourt Park Preparatory School is a co-educational, non-selective independent school for children aged 4 to 11.

Refreshingly for a London day school, it offers a non-selective admission process that celebrates difference and recognises the unique potential of each child – though it's important to register your child on their first birthday, otherwise it's a lottery. We reckon it's got the most clearly laid out set of school policies we found on any school's website.

Great results with students going on to St Paul's, Latymer, Godolphin and Francis Holland.

**Website** rpps.co.uk  
**Email** secretary@rpps.co.uk

**Telephone** 020 8846 9153

**Address** Ravenscourt Park Preparatory School, 16 Ravenscourt Avenue, London, W6 0SL

**Head** Kate O'Shaughnessy  
**Ages** 4-11  
**Term Fees** £4,997  
**Boys/Girls/Mixed** Mixed

## Roedean

The Malory Tower-esque cliff-top location of Roedean certainly builds character. Roedean is firmly a boarding school with a huge amount on offer and superb facilities – 320-seater theatre anyone? There are endless netball and tennis courts, as well as more modern pursuits like Pilates and Zumba. Refreshingly down to earth for a school of such stature, Roedean seems to foster happiness on all levels. 'It creates modern women,' says one parent.

You can even request for your daughter to do a taster day before joining, which seems a smart move when most girls and parents usually have to choose a school based on a couple of somewhat rushed open day visits. All in all, a school with an international feel. Even better, the boarding houses are undergoing a £10million revamp.

**Website** roedean.co.uk  
**Email** enquiries@roedean.co.uk  
**Telephone** 01273 667500  
**Address** Roedean School, Roedean Way, Brighton, BN2 5RQ  
**Head** Oliver Blond  
**Ages** 11-18

**Term fees** Day £6,300; Boarding £11,200  
**Boys/Girls/Mixed** Girls

## Rugby School

One of the oldest and best-known schools in the country. Founded in 1567, it contains the playing field where, according to legend, the game of rugby was invented. Scholarship places are still offered to outstanding students in the local community.

**Website** rugbyschool.net  
**Email** admissions@rugbyschool.net  
**Telephone number** 01788 556274  
**Head** Peter Green

**Age range** 11-18 day; 13-18 boarding

**Girls/Boys/Mixed** Mixed

**Number of pupils** 804

**Admissions procedure**

Assessment by reference and interview during Year 7. Entrance tests or Common Entrance during Year 8.

**Famous Alumni**

William Webb Ellis, Robert Hardy, Tom King, Anthony Horowitz.

**How would you describe your school?**

Busy, happy, unpretentious.

**Your school's proudest achievement**

In recent years this must be the establishment and growth of the Arnold Foundation to provide bursary support for approximately five per cent of our boarding pupils entirely through donations.

**What is your top tip to parents on choosing the right school?** You need to visit a full boarding school on a working day to get a proper sense of what this life is like and whether it will suit you and your child.

## Shrewsbury House School

A school with a great academic record, making it fantastic for boys aged 7-13

## Sinclair House

A warm, caring school where it's all about nurturing children and inspiring them to do their best. Great record in placing children in a number of top prep schools.

**Website** sinclairhouseschool.co.uk  
**Email** chloe@sinclairhouseschool.co.uk  
**Telephone** Nursery: 020 7736 9365.  
Prep: 020 7736 9182  
**Head** Carlotta O'Sullivan

who love learning. The workload, with twice-yearly exams, is balanced with lots of sports, though. Everyone gets involved, whether they're playing for the A team or H team and, irrespective of which team you're in, they normally win. Loads of outdoor space on site, allowing for masses of football, cricket and swimming.

It's the sort of school where boys have to take responsibility for themselves, making sure they've done their homework, brought in the right games kit and so on, but early floundering is worth it as they quickly become self-motivated and independent.

London boys travel here in minibuses from Putney, Wimbledon and Fulham and, later, go on to Tonbridge, Wellington, King's College School Wimbledon, St Paul's, Epsom, Reeds, St John's.

**Website** shrewsburyhouse.net

**Email** office@shspost.co.uk

**Telephone** 020 8399 3066

**Address** 107 Ditton Road, Surbiton, Surrey, KT6 6RL

**Head** Kevin Dobtle

**Ages** 7-13

**Term Fees** £5,065

**Boys/Girls/Mixed** Boys

## The Pilgrims' School

The Pilgrims' School is the choir school of Winchester Cathedral, offering not one but two professional choirs, and outstanding choral and instrumental musical opportunities. 'A very special place to be if your child is musically gifted,' says one mother.

The school has an enviable awards record. As the main feeder to Winchester College, up to half of the boys in the top year move there each year. The

others go on to the major independent schools of the south – Eton, Harrow, Charterhouse, Canford and Sherborne.

**Website** thepilgrims-school.co.uk

**Email** info@pilgrims-school.co.uk

**Telephone** 01962 854189

**Address** The Pilgrims' School, The Close, Winchester, SO23 9LT

**Head** Patrick Watson

**Ages** 4-13

**Term Fees** Day £5,515;

Boarding £6,960

**Boys/Girls/Mixed** Boys

## Summer Fields

A proper prep school for boys aged 8-13 with the majority boarding. A feeder for Eton, the school motto is Mens Sana in Corpore Sano – 'A healthy mind in a healthy body' – and the school works hard to make this a reality. Lots of nice touches like the handwriting clinic that operates once a week (at no extra charge) and each boy has his own pastoral tutor with whom he meets regularly and who is responsible for his academic and social welfare. Gives boys a 'good, wholesome school life,' according to one mother.

**Website** summerfields.com

**Email** office@summerfields.com

**Telephone** 01865 454433

**Address** Mayfield Road, Oxford, OX2 7EN

**Head** David Faber

**Ages** 8-13

**Term Fees** Day, £6,699;

Boarding £8,651

**Boys/Girls/Mixed** Boys

## Thomas's Clapham

If your son or daughter is quiet and retiring they may struggle, but for enthusiastic children who live in

**your school?** Outstanding, caring and happy.

**Your school's proudest achievement**

To inspire a passion for learning and support each child to reach their potential.

**What is your top tip to parents on choosing the right school?**

Choose a school where children can celebrate their unique talents so they can succeed and also feel valued.



Thomas's Clapham

Clapham, it's hard to beat. Headteacher Phil Ward has made a huge difference to the atmosphere of the place – the silent corridor that once was is now full of eager children queuing up to show him their latest creation or idea. The ethos of the school is to behave in a natural, happy and responsible way, and to be mindful of the needs of others. A hugely impressive set of results for leavers at both 11+ and 13+, and large grounds and classrooms – something pretty rare in London.

**Website** [Thomas-s.co.uk](http://Thomas-s.co.uk)  
**Email** [clapham@thomas-s.co.uk](mailto:clapham@thomas-s.co.uk)  
**Telephone** 020 7326 9300  
**Address** Broomwood Road, London, SW11 6JZ  
**Head** Phil Ward  
**Ages** 4-13  
**Term Fees** £4,864-£5,499  
**Boys/Girls/Mixed** Mixed

## Tonbridge

Tonbridge School is one of the leading boys' boarding schools in the country with 60/40 split of boarding today. Lots of boys from London and the Home Counties, but a good international balance too. This high-achieving school aims to provide a caring and enlightened environment in which the talents of each individual flourish and allow the boys to become leaders in their chosen fields.

They encourage boys to be creative, tolerant and to strive for academic, sporting and cultural excellence. They're kept super-busy with a huge range of extra-curricular activities.

'Happy, happy boys,' says one mum.

**Website** [tonbridge-school.co.uk](http://tonbridge-school.co.uk)  
**Email** [admissions@tonbridge-school.org](mailto:admissions@tonbridge-school.org)  
**Telephone** 01732 365555  
**Address** High Street, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 1JP  
**Head** Tim Haynes  
**Ages** 13-18  
**Term Fees** £11,721  
**Boys/Girls/Mixed** Boys

## St Paul's Girls' School

Entry to St Paul's is by competitive examination and interview and, as the school itself says, it 'suits some girls but not all.' Through their bursary and outreach schemes, the school aims to make it possible for any girl with the potential to thrive at St Paul's to take up a place regardless of her family's background. The school's academic record speaks for itself, with 91.3 per cent of girls achieving an A or A\* at A-level this year. It very much fosters academic excellence and independence of mind and offers a mind-blowing range of opportunities to the girls lucky (and bright) enough to secure a place. Last year's results had over 30 girls going to Oxford and Cambridge, and the school seem to be at the forefront of the growing trend of attending university in the USA.

**Website** [spgs.org](http://spgs.org)  
**Email** [admissions@spgs.org](mailto:admissions@spgs.org)  
**Telephone** 020 7603 2288  
**Address** Brook Green, Hammersmith, London, W6 7BS  
**Head** Clarissa Farr

**Ages** 11-18

**Term Fees** £6,968-£7,479  
**Boys/Girls/Mixed** Girls

## Uppingham

Firmly a full boarding school, but delightfully approachable. Co-ed through and through, a new sports centre opened in 2011 and a state-of-the-art science centre is underway. Lots of schools have a headmaster's blog but Uppingham boasts a blog by its resident chaplain, which is definitely worth a read. Around 40 societies operate within the school, and there's a further 30 areas of activity on offer – from metalwork to scuba diving – that will keep anyone from getting bored or homesick.

At Uppingham, the boarding house is the centre of everything. Meals are eaten in house, which is good for building relationships with fellow boarders, and the housemaster or housemistress live in with their family to help create a homely feel.

Millions are being spent on the school's facilities with the new science unit nearly finished.

**Website** [uppingham.co.uk](http://uppingham.co.uk)  
**Email** [admissions@uppingham.co.uk](mailto:admissions@uppingham.co.uk)  
**Telephone** 01572 822216  
**Address** Uppingham, Rutland, LE15 9QE  
**Head** Richard Harman  
**Ages** 13-18  
**Term Fees** Day £7,665; Boarding £10,950  
**Boys/Girls/Mixed** Mixed

## Wellington College

A world-class co-ed day and weekly boarding school, founded in 1859 and within easy reach of London. This pioneering school is not easy to get into, though, with pre-testing in the spring term of Year 6, and a full assessment day in Year 7. But once in, there's a great combination of academic rigour, unique pastoral approach (mindfulness and the eight aptitudes hot-wired into the school), and an extensive service programme. Parents are full of praise about the happy, ambitious and focussed children the school produces. 'A great school with an international feel,' says one parent. New headteacher Julian Thomas from Caterham School joins at the start of the 2016 academic year.

**Website** [wellingtoncollege.org.uk](http://wellingtoncollege.org.uk)  
**Email** [admissions@wellingtoncollege.org.uk](mailto:admissions@wellingtoncollege.org.uk)  
**Telephone** 01344 444000  
**Address** Crowthorne, Berkshire, RG45 7PU  
**Head** Dr Anthony Seldon  
**Ages** 13-18  
**Term Fees** Day £8,350; Boarding £11,375  
**Boys/Girls/Mixed** Mixed

## Windlesham

Independent boarding and day school for children aged 4 to 13, at Windlesham the ethos is to work hard and play really hard. Set in 65 acres of grounds, in which children can play tennis, golf, footie and climb trees in their long breaks. The school takes children from far and wide so it doesn't empty out at weekends. 'A really homely feel to the place,' says one mother. Teaching is excellent, too, inspiring the children in all subjects.

**Website** [windlesham.com](http://windlesham.com)  
**Email** [whsadmissions@windlesham.com](mailto:whsadmissions@windlesham.com)  
**Telephone** 01903 874700  
**Address** Washington, Pulborough, West Sussex, RH20 4AY  
**Head** Richard Foster  
**Ages** 4-13  
**Term Fees** £6,945  
**Boys/Girls/Mixed** Mixed

● Please note that Salamanca Group has not been involved in selecting the schools in this guide or the editorial views within.

# SCHOOLS DIRECTORY



## ABBOT'S HILL SCHOOL

**HEAD TEACHER:** Mrs Elizabeth Thomas, BA (Hons), PGCE, NPQH  
[abbotshill.herts.sch.uk](http://abbotshill.herts.sch.uk)

**AGES:** Girls 3-16, Boys 3-5

**ADMISSIONS CONTACT:** [registrar@abbotshill.herts.sch.uk](mailto:registrar@abbotshill.herts.sch.uk), 01442 240333

Thriving and dynamic school situated in over 70 acres of beautiful parkland on the outskirts of Hemel Hempstead.

A happy, united community in which every pupil is known as an individual.

Strong record of academic success. Pupils taught in small classes, the broad curriculum enhanced by a wide range of trips and activities. Extra-curricular clubs include sport, performing and creative arts, science and technology, journalism, problem-solving and debating. Most girls take part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.

## ACS EGHAM

**HEAD TEACHER:** Jeremy Lewis  
[acs-schools.com](http://acs-schools.com)

**AGES:** 3-18

**BOYS/GIRLS/MIXED:** Mixed

**ADMISSIONS CONTACT:** Linda Kavanagh, 01784 430611

IB World School and centre of IB excellence, offering the Primary Years, Middle Years and Diploma programmes. Brand-new sports

centre and performing arts facilities opened in September 2012. ACS Egham students received their final IB Diploma results with a 100 per cent pass rate and fifty per cent of the students achieving a grade six or seven, the equivalent to an A or A\* at A-level. The average score across the cohort was comparable to three As and a B at A-level.



## ACS HILLINGDON

**HEAD TEACHER:** Linda LaPine  
[acs-schools.com](http://acs-schools.com)

**AGES:** 4-18

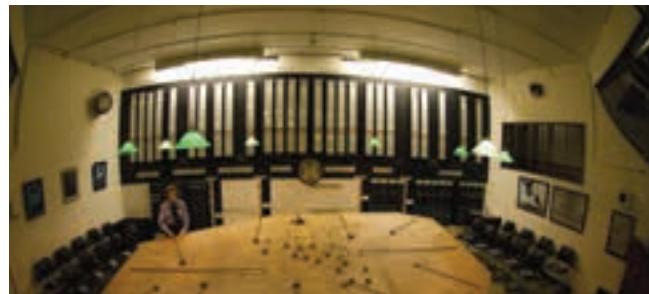
**BOYS/GIRLS/MIXED:** Mixed

**ADMISSIONS CONTACT:**

Rudianne Soltis, Dean of Admissions, 01895 818402

ACS Hillingdon offers the International Baccalaureate Middle Years and Diploma programmes along with an extensive Advanced

Placement programme. Strong focus on technology and internationalism. Over 40 students, aged 12 to 13, recently visited the Battle of Britain Bunker at RAF Uxbridge. During the war the bunker acted as an underground control room for fighter aircraft, used by the Number 11 Group Fighter Command. In 1975, the bunker was fully restored to its former glory and opened to the public.



## BERKHAMSTED SCHOOL

**PRINCIPAL:** Mr Mark S. Steed  
[berkhamstedschool.org](http://berkhamstedschool.org)

**AGES:** 3-18

**BOYS/GIRLS/MIXED:** Mixed to 11, boys/girls 11-16, mixed 16+

**ADMISSIONS CONTACT:** Mrs Linzi Wesley, Admissions Manager, 01442 358001

Berkhamsted School offers a diamond model of education, providing the best of co-educational and single-sex tuition, as well as wrap-around care and flexible boarding options to make life easier for working parents.

A new building for Pre-Prep, designed to engender curiosity and stimulate thinking, has been completed. At Prep, the site has undergone a makeover with an outdoor amphitheatre-



style classroom, full-size tennis court, three fives courts and science gardens.

Open mornings on Friday 3 and Saturday 4 October.



## CHESHAM PREPARATORY SCHOOL

**HEAD TEACHER:** Mr Mike Davies  
[cheshamprep.co.uk](http://cheshamprep.co.uk)

**AGES:** 3-13

**BOYS/GIRLS/MIXED:** Mixed

**ADMISSIONS CONTACTS:** [registrar@cheshamprep.co.uk](mailto:registrar@cheshamprep.co.uk), 01494 782619

A friendly family school where pupils work hard, behave well and achieve great things. Nursery for children

rising three years old recently opened.

Excellent success rates at 11+ and 12+ Grammar school entry, as well as 13+ Common Entrance to senior independent schools. Other successes include two rugby teams qualifying for National Finals at Epsom, a team qualifying for the semi-finals of the National Science Quiz championships, and CPS swimmers qualifying for the ESSA National Relay Championships. Open Mornings are Wednesday 8 October and Saturday 11 October.



## FLYING START

**HEAD TEACHER:** Ms Sian

Goodspeed  
[flyingstarttuition.co.uk](http://flyingstarttuition.co.uk)

**AGES:** 5-16 years

**BOYS/GIRLS/MIXED:** Mixed

**ADMISSIONS CONTACT:** [hello@flyingstarttuition.co.uk](mailto:hello@flyingstarttuition.co.uk), 01494 772898.

It's back to school and Flying Start Tuition offers a range of courses designed to boost confidence and

accelerate progress. Courses include Primary and Secondary level English and Maths, Eleven Plus and Twelve Plus preparation. Lessons take place at the tuition centre in Chesham and satellite centres in Little Chalfont and Aylesbury. Free pupil assessment session or trial lesson.

Flying Start's holding a free 11+ talk for parents on Tuesday 16 September at 7.30pm. Call or email to reserve your place.

## EGERTON ROTHESAY SCHOOL

**HEAD TEACHER:** Mr Colin Parker  
[eger-roth.co.uk](http://eger-roth.co.uk)

**AGES:** 5-18

**BOYS/GIRLS/MIXED:** Mixed

**ADMISSIONS CONTACTS:** Registrar [liz.martin@eger-roth.co.uk](mailto:liz.martin@eger-roth.co.uk)

Once again pupils at ERS worked hard with the added support available to achieve their personal targets. Our End of Year Speech Day and prize giving in July celebrated their successes, with pupils awarded prizes in Drama, Music and Sport Colours, Head Teacher and Head of Year Commendations. Sports Successes included Athletics representation in the National School Championships, and a Year 11 pupil representing his country as part of the GB Rafting Team in New Zealand. Drama saw one pupil having an audition in front of West End judges and another was on National Television playing drums for the Children In Need Event.

At a recent inspection ERS was described as an inspiring school, which demonstrated a high level of expertise and practical experience in helping children with a wide range of needs, including dyslexia, dyspraxia, and speech and language difficulties.

The school says that their support-based provision enables pupils to flourish, rather than just survive, and to feel happy about themselves and their achievements – often for the first time.

Their mainstream curriculum is broad and balanced. In the younger years it provides an environment where pupils can develop core skills and personal qualities so they move on to the senior school as confident individuals.

As they progress to a subject-based curriculum – and take a variety of GCSEs, BTECs and other nationally recognised qualifications – pupils engage with the ERS Learning for Life programme to prepare for life after school and exams.





## GAYHURST SCHOOL

**HEAD TEACHER:** Mr Andrew Sims  
[registrar@gayhurstschool.co.uk](mailto:registrar@gayhurstschool.co.uk)

**AGES:** 3-13

**BOYS/GIRLS/MIXED:** Mixed  
**ADMISSIONS CONTACT:**

Miss Michelle Upton, [umpton@gayhurstschool.co.uk](mailto:umpton@gayhurstschool.co.uk)

A thriving, vibrant independent preparatory school in Gerrards Cross. Academic standards are high and the results of external entrance

examinations are outstanding at both 11+ and 13+. Above all, the school strives to instil confidence, a sense of decency, tolerance and sensitivity for others in its pupils. A friendly, wonderfully resourced environment with small class sizes in which children learn and flourish. Opportunities outside the classroom abound. Excellent sports' facilities, first-class music, art and drama encourage every child to find their own particular strength.

## HABERDASHERS' ASKE'S BOYS SCHOOL

**HEAD TEACHER:** Peter Hamilton  
[habsboys.org.uk](http://habsboys.org.uk)

**AGES:** 5-18

**BOYS/GIRLS/MIXED:** Boys

**ADMISSIONS CONTACT:** [office@habsboys.org.uk](mailto:office@habsboys.org.uk), 020 8266 1700

Outstanding 2014 GCSE results, with 70% achieving an A\* grade. 112 boys (63%) received straight A\*/A grades, with 39 boys gaining 10 A\* grades. Excellent results in Mathematics (82.4% A\*, 99.4% A\*-A), Sciences (Biology 79% A\*,

Chemistry 79% A\*, Physics 86% A\*) and Modern Languages (French 85% A\*, German 71% A\*, Italian 92% A\*, Spanish 81% A).

Head Peter Hamilton said: 'We have always sought to stretch the brightest minds and develop well-rounded individuals. This year's cohort are talented in all manner of areas and I am pleased to congratulate them, their parents, and my superb staff.' Next Open Day 11 October, 1-4pm.



## HURTWOOD HOUSE

**HEAD TEACHER:** Cosmo Jackson  
[hurtwoodhouse.com](http://hurtwoodhouse.com)

**AGES:** 16-18

**BOYS/GIRLS/MIXED:** Mixed  
**ADMISSIONS CONTACT:** [info@hurtwood.net](mailto:info@hurtwood.net)

The most creative school in the UK with top academic results. Hurtwood House is a boarding school with a difference – a big

difference! Although it has all the facilities of a typical public school, it specialises exclusively in the sixth form. Changing schools at 16 opens up a whole new world of fresh experiences and challenges and provides the perfect stepping-stone between school and university. Young, exciting and dynamic, it is exceptionally creative with drama, media, art, textiles, dance, music and singing to die for.

## KING EDWARD'S SCHOOL WITLEY

**HEAD TEACHER:** Mr J F Attwater  
[kesw.org](http://kesw.org)

**AGES:** 11-18

**BOYS/GIRLS/MIXED:** Mixed

**ADMISSIONS CONTACT:** [bensonj@kesw.org](mailto:bensonj@kesw.org), 01428 686700

An early adopter of the prestigious IB (100% pass rate in 2014), King Edward's will celebrate 10 years of the IB this September. From 2015, it

will also offer the new A-level course. Also offers a commitment to providing pupils with a rounded education, which includes access to a wide choice of sports and creative activities. Renowned reputation for the provision of high-quality pastoral care and unrivalled support to pupils from a diverse range of backgrounds. Open Mornings on Saturday 13 September, Thursday 9 October or Saturday 8 November at 10am.





## MANOR LODGE SCHOOL

**HEAD TEACHER:** Mr Gil Dunn

[manorlodgeschool.com](http://manorlodgeschool.com)

**AGES:** 3-11

**BOYS/GIRLS/MIXED:** Mixed

**ADMISSIONS CONTACT:** Mrs

Pat Worby, Admissions Secretary,  
[enquiries@manorlodgeschool.com](mailto:enquiries@manorlodgeschool.com),  
01707 642424

Opened in 1991 with 28 children, preparing children for 11+ entry into the top private and state

schools. Today it has 430 pupils, maintaining high academic standards within a creative curriculum. The aim is to impart skills, the ability to apply knowledge rather than merely acquire it, a love of learning, good study habits and strategies to become both independent and collaborative problem-solvers and innovators. Art, music, drama and sport mean the children enjoy a well-rounded education.



## MALTMAN'S GREEN

**HEAD TEACHER:** Joanna Pardon, MA, BSc Hons, PGCE  
[malmansgreen.com](http://malmansgreen.com)

**AGES:** 3-11

**BOYS/GIRLS/MIXED:** Girls

**ADMISSIONS CONTACTS:** Mrs Katherine Day, Registrar, [registrar@malmansgreen.com](mailto:registrar@malmansgreen.com), 01753 883022

Maltman's is a non-selective school with a reputation for achieving

excellent results academically and in sport, music, drama and art. There has been a highly impressive number of senior school offers for grammar schools including Dr Challoner's, Beaconsfield High and Herschel, as well as a wide range of record-breaking scholarship awards at schools including Wycombe Abbey, The Royal Masonic School, Berkhamsted, St Clements Danes and St Mary's in Gerrards Cross.



## MERCHANT TAYLORS' SCHOOL

**HEAD TEACHER:** Simon Everson  
[mtsn.org.uk](http://mtsn.org.uk)

**AGES:** 11-18

**BOYS/GIRLS/MIXED:** Boys (850)

**ADMISSIONS CONTACTS:** Penny Wright, Secretary, [admissions@mtsn.org.uk](mailto:admissions@mtsn.org.uk)

One of the nine original 'Great Schools of England,' boys leaving Merchant Taylors' have achieved

eminence in all walks of life since the school's foundation in 1561. Despite its prominent position within various league tables, it's not a hothouse but a 'marvellously cool' school (*Good Schools Guide*). Values boys as individuals, fostering talents in sports and hobbies as well as learning. As Sir Edmund Spenser wrote in a letter to Sir Walter Raleigh: 'The general end is to fashion a gentleman in virtuous and gentle discipline.'

## OLD MACDONALD'S DAY NURSERY

**HEAD TEACHER:** Caroline Nuttall  
[oldmacdonaldsdaynursery.co.uk](http://oldmacdonaldsdaynursery.co.uk)

**AGES:** 3 months-5 years for nursery and pre-school; 4-8 years for Mighty Macs holiday club

**BOYS/GIRLS/MIXED:** Mixed

**ADMISSIONS CONTACT:** latimer@  
[oldmacdonaldsdaynursery.co.uk](http://oldmacdonaldsdaynursery.co.uk), 01494 762336

Established over 16 years ago,

offering outstanding childcare and fun-packed days in a safe, stimulating environment with high-quality resources to aid learning and support development needs. Located in unique settings, many opportunities are provided to see animals and embrace Forest Schooling as well as enjoy arts and crafts, ICT, literacy, maths, music and games. Warm, friendly staff and fresh food prepared daily on the premises.



## PARKSIDE SCHOOL

**HEAD TEACHER:** Mr Mark Beach  
[parkside-school.co.uk](http://parkside-school.co.uk)

**AGES:** 4-13

**BOYS/GIRLS/MIXED:** Boys, with co-ed nursery from 2-4

**ADMISSIONS:** Please ask for the Registrar, [office@parkside-school.co.uk](mailto:office@parkside-school.co.uk), 01932 862749

Traditional school in 45 acres, with thoroughly modern facilities and forward-thinking curriculum.

New head teacher Mr Mark Beach from September 2014, has 100% success record at Common Entrance, this year with 81% at A and B grade.

The school is one of only two prep schools in the country to become National Prep School Football Champions on more than one occasion, while music, drama and a host of other activities keep the boys active and happy.



## PIPER'S CORNER

**HEAD TEACHER:** Mrs Helen Ness-Gifford  
[piperscorner.co.uk](http://piperscorner.co.uk)

**AGES:** 4-18

**BOYS/GIRLS/MIXED:** Girls

**ADMISSIONS CONTACT:** Mrs Fran Knight, Director of Admissions and Marketing, 01494 718255

Focus on academic excellence as girls are supported and challenged to

achieve full potential. Girls progress to further study at Oxbridge and other top universities or specialist art, dance, drama and music colleges. From the 25m indoor pool to the performing Arts and Technology Centre, girls have all the space, facilities and equipment to excel in sport, dance, drama, art and technology.

## PUTNEY HIGH SCHOOL

**HEAD TEACHER:** Dr Denise Lodge  
[putneyhigh.gdst.net](http://putneyhigh.gdst.net)

**AGES:** 4-18

**BOYS/GIRLS/MIXED:** Girls

**ADMISSIONS CONTACT:**

[m.robertson@put.gdst.net](mailto:m.robertson@put.gdst.net) 020 8788 4886

Introducing new sport and music scholarships from September 2015. Will offer Sports Scholarships at 11+

and 13+ as well as Sixth Form. The hugely successful Music Scholarship programme also offered at 13+ as well as 11+ and Sixth Form. New state-of-the art performing Arts Centre opening this September.

For entry in September 2015, the Putney provision will be academic, music and sport for 11+, music and sport for 13+ and drama, music and sport for Sixth Form.



## ROYAL MASONIC SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

**HEAD TEACHER:** Mrs Diana Rose  
[royalmasonic.herts.sch.uk](http://royalmasonic.herts.sch.uk)

**TEL:** 01923 773168

**AGES:** 4-18 and pre-school 2-4

**BOYS/GIRLS/MIXED:** Girls 4-18, boys and girls 2-4

**ADMISSIONS CONTACTS:** Mrs Gail Braiden, Admissions Manager, 01923 725354

Situated in 150 acres of parkland 30 minutes by train from Central

London, combines modern facilities and innovative teaching to create an outstanding environment in which to learn and grow. A wide range of extra-curricular activities delivered by dedicated and motivated staff ensure that all girls have the opportunity to shine. In its most recent ISI and OFSTED inspections, RMS was judged as 'outstanding' in all aspects of education and for its boarding provision. Full, weekly and flexible boarding are available.

## SINCLAIR HOUSE SCHOOL

**HEAD TEACHER:** Mrs

Carlotta O'Sullivan  
[sinclairhouseschool.co.uk](http://sinclairhouseschool.co.uk)

**AGES:** 2-13

**BOYS/GIRLS/MIXED:** Mixed

**ADMISSIONS CONTACTS:** [info@sinclairhouseschool.co.uk](mailto:info@sinclairhouseschool.co.uk)

Sinclair House School opened in Fulham in 1989, emphasising values-led teaching and providing a personalised learning gradient from Early Years to Common Entrance stages. Children build

on their strengths in the Nursery using the Montessori Method, developing confidence and social skills ready for the Preparatory Years. Maximum class size of 16 pupils.

Building on the success of their recent expansion and increased applicant numbers, they are introducing a two-form entry system into their Preparatory School from September 2014.

Open Days take place on 18 September for Nursery and 20 September for Prep.



## ST COLUMBA'S COLLEGE

**HEAD TEACHER:** Mr David Buxton

[stcolumbascollege.org](http://stcolumbascollege.org)

**AGES:** 4-18

**BOYS/GIRLS/MIXED:** Boys

**ADMISSIONS CONTACT:**

[admissions@stcolumbascollege.org](mailto:admissions@stcolumbascollege.org),  
 01727 855185

A Catholic school, St Columba's is open to boys of wide variety of religious traditions, with learning

underpinned by the Columban code of Courage, Courtesy and Compassion. The school's strength lies in the combination of high expectations, a culture of mutual respect and care, creating a stimulating, happy environment in which boys thrive and learn, building firm foundations for confident socially-skilled pupils. Bursaries and scholarships are available – please see the website for details.

## SIR WILLIAM PERKINS'S SCHOOL

**HEAD TEACHER:** Mr Chris Muller

[swps.org.uk](http://swps.org.uk)

**AGES:** 11- 18

**BOYS/GIRLS/MIXED:** Girls

**ADMISSIONS CONTACT:**

[Office@swps.org.uk](mailto:Office@swps.org.uk)

As well as our usual outstanding exam results, Sir William Perkins's School embarks on the new academic year with much to celebrate: a new head leading the school into its exciting next phase, including a building development providing a glass atrium café, Drama Studio, Careers Centre and Sixth Form Centre complete with wrap-around roof terrace. Their vision is to build confidence, integrity and excellence in a caring, innovative and happy community so that pupils can leave ready to take on the world. Open Mornings on 19, 23, 29 September, and 9, 15 Oct, 11 November.



## SKOLA – NEWLAND COLLEGE

**HEAD TEACHER:** Darlene Fisher

[newlandcollege.co.uk](http://newlandcollege.co.uk)

**AGES:** 11-18 (11-13 from September 2015)

**BOYS/GIRLS/MIXED:** Mixed

**ADMISSIONS CONTACT:**

Registrar Sophy Haig, [s.haig@newlandcollege.co.uk](mailto:s.haig@newlandcollege.co.uk)

Set in 100 acres of parkland in the rolling Chilterns, the College has outstanding facilities and

every student is given a study space to make their own. English boarding school tradition within the acclaimed International Baccalaureate (IB) framework. It is already a candidate school authorised to offer the IB Middle Years Programme and plans to offer the full Diploma for students aged 16 to 18 through full boarding, flexi-boarding and day places for local students. Standard class size of 14 students. Next Open Days 3 and 4 October.



## ST EDMUND'S COLLEGE AND PREP

**HEAD TEACHER:** Mr Paulo Durán

BA MA

stedmundscollege.org

**AGES:** 3-18

**BOYS/GIRLS/MIXED:** Mixed

**ADMISSIONS CONTACT:**

admissions@stedmundscollege.org, 01920 824247 or 01920 824365

England's oldest Catholic school, it

offers an education that challenges and stimulates, developing the whole person in the intellectual, physical, emotional and spiritual areas of life.

Only 40 minutes to London by train, it makes full use of the excellent facilities on its 450 acre site, including flood-lit astro turf pitches and indoor swimming pool.

Scholarships available at 7+, 11+, 16+ and applications welcome at all years. Open to students from all faiths who support the school's ethos.

## ST MARY'S SCHOOL

**HEAD TEACHER:** Mrs Jean Ross  
stmarysschool.co.uk

**AGES:** 3-18

**BOYS/GIRLS/MIXED:** Girls

**ADMISSIONS:** Mrs Chris Pearcy, registrar@st-marys.bucks.sch.uk, 01753 883370

Whilst media speculation surrounding this year's GCSE and A-level results was rife following

warnings of 'volatility', girls at St Mary's Gerrards Cross enjoyed some of the school's best results ever with all Year 13 girls gaining places at the universities of their choice and Year 11s an abundant crop of top grades at GCSE. Mrs Ross says: 'These results are a fitting tribute to the girls' hard work, their ever-supportive parents and the outstanding quality of teaching across all subject areas.'



## ST GEORGE'S COLLEGE

**HEAD TEACHER:** Mr Joe Peake (College) and Mr Antony Hudson (Junior School)  
stgeorgesweybridge.com

**AGES:** Junior School 3-11 years and College 11-18 years

**BOYS/GIRLS/MIXED:** Mixed

**ADMISSIONS CONTACT:**

contact@stgeorgesweybridge.com  
01932 839300

Leading independent co-educational Roman Catholic

day schools offering a values-led education for all. Aims to develop perfectly balanced individuals by educating minds, expanding hearts and empowering lives, whilst inspirational teaching inspires a love of learning and fulfils aspirations and potential. Distinctive Josephite ethos instils mutual respect and compassion in all and encourages among its students a strong sense that all members belong to one family, which encompasses the wider world.

## ST HELEN'S SCHOOL

**HEAD TEACHER:** Dr Mary Short  
sthn.co.uk

**AGES:** 3-18

**BOYS/GIRLS/MIXED:** Girls

**ADMISSIONS CONTACT:**

Mrs Lesley Hailey, admissions secretary, 01923 843230, admissions@sthn.co.uk

Offer an excellent, well-balanced and stimulating education, encouraging each girl to aspire to the highest academic standards. The 21-acre campus includes a Sports Centre and Modern Arts building. There will be an Open Day on Saturday 20 September, 9.30am-1pm, and Wednesday 12 November, 9.30am-1pm. Sixth Form Open Evening on 23 September, 6.30pm.





## STOWE SCHOOL

**HEAD TEACHER:** Dr Anthony Wallersteiner

wallersteiner@stowe.co.uk

**AGES:** 13-18

**BOYS/GIRLS OR MIXED:** Mixed

**ADMISSIONS CONTACTS:** David Fletcher, Registrar, admissions@stowe.co.uk, 01280 818205

Helping each and every pupil achieve their best, inside and outside the classroom. A sublime environment that builds confident young people who are proud of their achievements.

Emphasis on academic achievement alongside other learning experiences. New Music School opens in the Autumn and Stowe becomes an All-Steinway school. This adds to the already refurbished theatre and home of Stowe Drama, the purpose-built Art School, and one of the finest school Equestrian Centres in the country.

Come and find out more at one of the Third Form or Sixth Form Open Mornings. See our website for more information on these.



## SWANBOURNE HOUSE

**HEAD TEACHER:** Mr Simon Hitchings  
swanbourne.org

**AGES:** 3 – 13

**BOYS/GIRLS/MIXED:** Mixed

**ADMISSIONS CONTACT:** Mrs C Hollowday, Registrar, 01296 720264

A thriving prep school, with boarding, day and nursery departments. Nestled within the 55

acres of wood and parklands are two special Forest School areas, each kept separate for the Pre-Prep children to explore. In small groups, with a high ratio of unobtrusive adult supervision, children are free to immerse themselves in their natural playground over a period of time. Experience has shown that teamwork is developed quickly and natural team leadership shines through, sometimes by those you least expect.

## THORPE HOUSE SCHOOL

**HEAD TEACHER:** Mr Terry Ayres

thorpehouse.co.uk

**AGES:** 3-16

**BOYS/GIRLS/MIXED:** Boys

**ADMISSIONS CONTACT:** office@thorpehouse.co.uk, 01753 882474

A small, friendly school educating boys through to GCSEs, where two-thirds of the grades are typically

A\*, A or B. A new headmaster, Mr Terry Ayres, joins this term. 'Thorpe House is a very special school which has a unique family feel,' he says. 'It is small enough to provide a truly tailored learning experience for its pupils but big enough to supply the breadth of experience essential to prepare young gentlemen for the next steps in their academic journey.'



## THE ABBEY SCHOOL

**HEAD TEACHER:** Mrs Rachel S E Dent

theabbey.co.uk

**AGES:** 3-18

**BOYS/GIRLS/MIXED:** Girls

**ADMISSIONS CONTACT:** admissions@theabbey.co.uk, 0118 987 2256

Outstanding education for academically able girls in a supportive pastoral environment, celebrating

superb A-level results with 94% of entries graded at A\*-B and a record-breaking 78% of entries earning the top A\* and A grades. More than half achieved a clean sweep of A\*/A grades in all their subjects, with five girls achieving three or more A\* grades. Girls have secured places at Oxford, Cambridge and top institutions in the United States and The Netherlands in Medicine, Biochemistry, Geography, International Law, Architecture and Music.



## THE MARIST SCHOOLS

**HEAD TEACHER:** Prep School Miss Jenny Finlayson, Senior School Mr Karl McCloskey themaristschools.com

**AGES:** 2½-18

**BOYS/GIRLS/MIXED:** Girls

**ADMISSIONS CONTACT:** Registrar Trudy Monteagudo, 01344 626137

Independent Catholic day prep and senior school set in 55 acres of woodland on one campus in

Sunninghill, Berkshire. Among the highest ranking schools in the country. Many extra-curricular clubs available and the schools have an outstanding reputation for sport, drama, music and creative arts.

Dedicated and highly qualified staff foster a respect for learning, leading to consistently high results. Before and after school care, sibling discount scheme and scholarships are available for entry into Years 3, 7 and Sixth Form. Next Open Day 25 September.



## TRING PARK SCHOOL FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

**HEAD TEACHER:** Stefan Anderson tringpark.com

**AGES:** 8-19

**BOYS/GIRLS/MIXED:** Mixed

**REGISTRAR:** Adelia Wood-Smith info@tringpark.com, 01442 824255

School allows gifted young people to specialise in Ballet, Dance, Drama, Musical Theatre or Commercial

Music, whilst gaining an excellent academic education to GCSE, BTEC and A level. Entrance is via audition and scholarships are available for Dance via the Government's Music and Dance Scheme and Dance and Drama Awards. School scholarships and bursaries available for Drama and Musical Theatre. Alumni include Daisy Ridley from the next Star Wars films and Lily James, seen as Cinderella. Open Days: 3, 9 and 10 October. Apply online.

## UPTON HOUSE

**HEAD TEACHER:** Mrs Madeleine Collins, BA (Hons), PGCE (Oxon) Member of the IAPS uptonhouse.org.uk

**AGES:** 2-7 years (boys), 2-11 years (girls)

**BOYS/GIRLS/MIXED:** Mixed

**ADMISSIONS CONTACT:** Mrs Jill Gilmour, jillgilmour@uptonhouse.org.uk, 01753 862610

Specialisation begins in the nursery

with French, music and gym. All the children have fun learning Mandarin, Spanish, rowing and Latin for example. Once again awarded outstanding in our EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) ISI Inspection two weeks ago. Outstanding in all areas in all year groups from 2-5 years old. 'The Leadership and Management are outstanding... a warm, welcoming, stimulating environment ensues.'



## WALHAMPTON INDEPENDENT PREP SCHOOL

**HEAD TEACHER:** Titus Mills walhampton.com

**AGES:** 2-13

**BOYS/GIRLS/MIXED:** Mixed

**ADMISSIONS CONTACTS:** registrar@ walhampton.com, 01590 613303

Independent, day and flexi-weekly and full-time boarding school. The school provides outstanding facilities that include a professional equestrian

centre and sibling lakes set within 100 acres. Offer a broad and dynamic curriculum that stretches beyond the four walls of the classroom. Lessons are taught in the kitchen garden, fields and woodland. As well as rigorous academic standards, Walhampton is passionate about breadth. It offers over 60 on-site extra-curricular activities, including beekeeping, fishing, archery, cookery, ceramics and shooting. There is a distinct 'Swallows and Amazons' spirit here.

## WESTBROOK HAY

**HEAD TEACHER:** Mr Keith Young  
westbrookhay.co.uk

**AGES:** 3-13

**BOYS/GIRLS/MIXED:** Mixed; girls move to their senior school at 11 whilst boys move on at 13

**ADMISSIONS CONTACT:** Registrar  
sarah\_whitehead@westbrookhay.co.uk  
or admin@westbrookhay.co.uk

The school benefits from excellent facilities including a £2 million

Lower School building for the nursery, Reception and Year 1 classes, an art studio and pottery kiln, a new state-of-the-art IT suite, a sports hall, outdoor swimming pool, 26 acres of grounds including extensive playing fields and a six-hole golf course. The building of a fully integrated performing arts centre is now well underway. Open Morning Saturday 4 October, 9.30am–12.30pm.



## YORK HOUSE SCHOOL

**HEAD TEACHER:** Mr Jon Gray  
york-house.com

**AGES:** 3-13

**BOYS/GIRLS/MIXED:** Mixed

**ADMISSIONS CONTACT:**

yhsoffice@york-house.com,  
01923 772395

Leading co-educational prep school in Croxley Green, set in 47 acres of countryside. Headmaster Mr Jon Gray begins his third year with the highest school numbers

in its history. Each school week is complemented with 66 pre and after-school activities. New iPads allow integrated ICT learning in most subjects while the Outdoor Education element includes goats, hens, ponies, expanded playing areas and tree planting. Family-friendly environment, average class size of 14 and an academic focus that supports all abilities. Next Open Day on 4 October, 9.30 am–12pm. Tours available 9.30–11.30am, Headmaster's talk at 10.30am.



Building confidence,  
integrity and excellence

## PUPIL INFORMATION MORNINGS

Friday 19 September, Thursday 9 October,  
Tuesday 11 November

## PARENT INFORMATION MORNINGS

Monday 29 September, Wednesday 15 October

## SIXTH FORM INFORMATION EVENING

Tuesday 23 September

## SIXTH FORM SCHOLARSHIP EXAMS

Saturday 8 November 2014



A highly successful independent day school for girls aged 11-18 years, situated in Surrey greenbelt, with easy road/rail access and school coach services.

- Outstanding academic results with excellent extracurricular opportunities
- State of the art facilities
- Scholarships – Academic, Music and Art (Year 7 and 6th Form) and means-tested bursaries (up to 100%) available

Please contact the Admissions Department to reserve a place at our information events, for further details or a prospectus.

t 01932 574900  
e reg@swps.org.uk  
Guildford Road | Chertsey  
Surrey KT16 9BN

www.swps.org.uk



**CO-EDUCATION IN  
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BEGINS WITH A...**

## A FEW PLACES REMAINING FOR 2015

Gayhurst is the only independent school in Gerrards Cross for girls and boys aged 3–13 years.

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



## The Royal Masonic School for Girls...



### OPEN DAYS

*Sunday 12th October, 2.00 pm - 5.00 pm  
Monday 13th October, 10.00 am - 12.00 pm  
Tuesday 14th October, 10.00 am - 12.00 pm*



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Rickmansworth, Herts, WD3 4HF.

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Walhampton  
a scientist  
an explorer  
a writer  
a musician  
an actor  
an athlete  
an artist  
a thinker



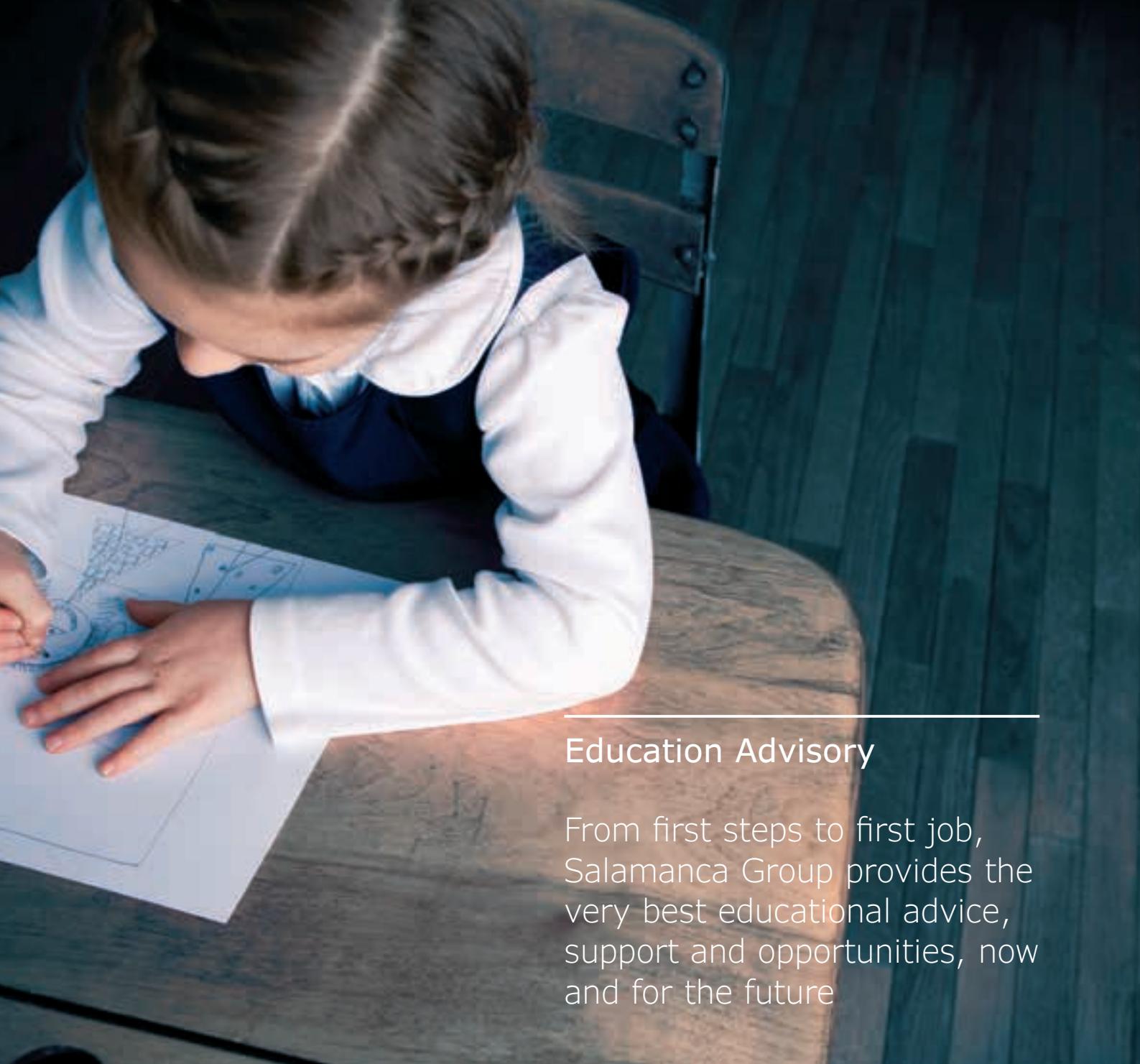
Walhampton

**OPEN MORNINGS**  
10th October 2014 & 30th January 2015

Independent co-educational preparatory day, flexi and full-time  
boarding school, ages 2-13. Lymington, Hampshire SO41 5ZG

Please contact the School Registrar on 01590 613 303  
or email [registrar@walhampton.com](mailto:registrar@walhampton.com)

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



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