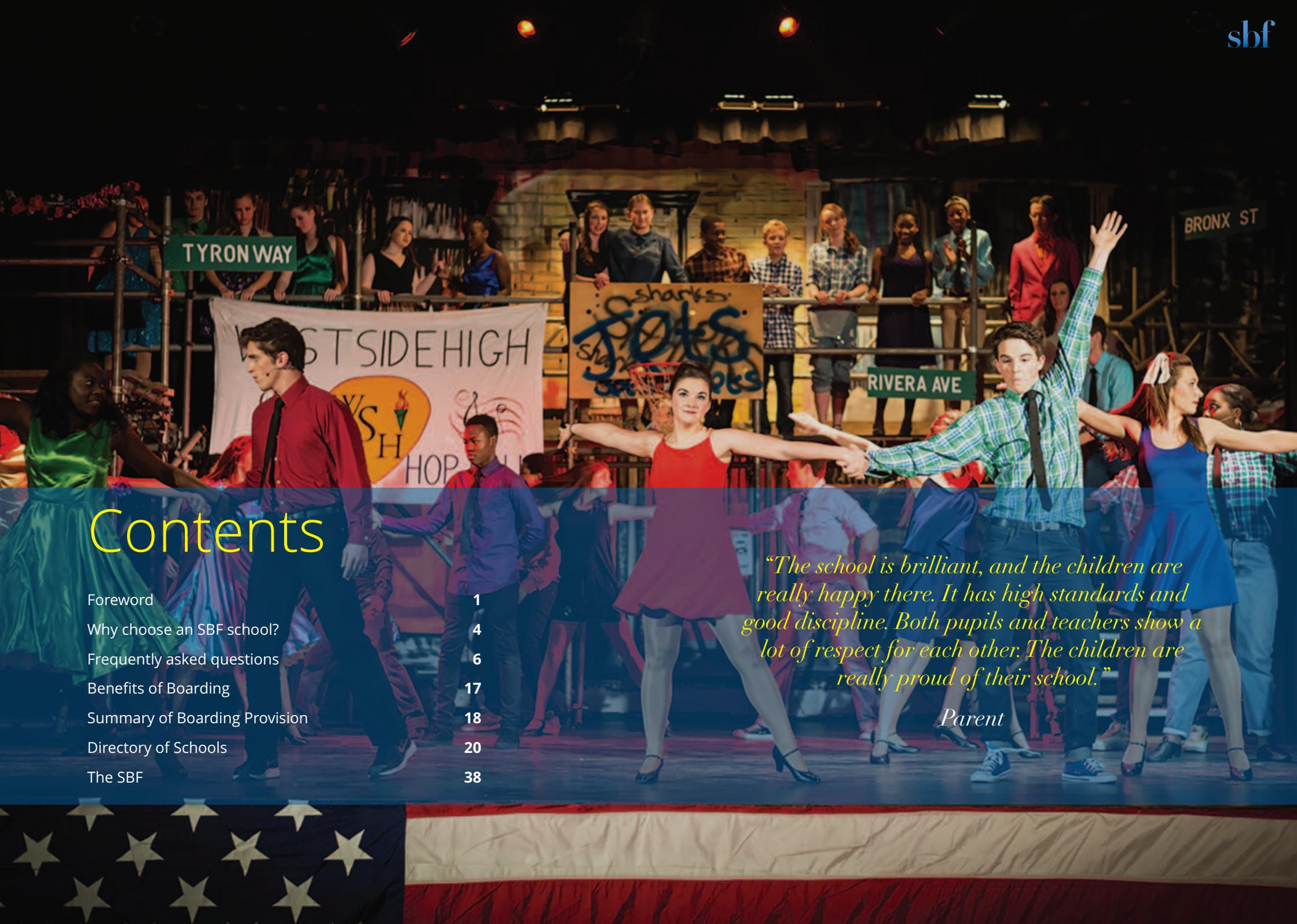


# Parents' Guide to **State** Boarding Schools





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*“The school is brilliant, and the children are really happy there. It has high standards and good discipline. Both pupils and teachers show a lot of respect for each other. The children are really proud of their school.”*

*Parent*



# Foreword

**Welcome to the latest edition of the 'Parents' Guide to BSA State Boarding Forum schools.**

A few years ago a regional tourist board coined the phrase 'Britain's best-kept secret' as a way to lure more visitors. This is not a tourist guide of course, but it might be fair to say that state boarding is perhaps the 'best-kept secret' in British education.

Members of the State Boarding Forum represent enormous diversity. There are 32 state boarding forum (SBF) schools right across the UK ranging in boarding numbers from under 50 to over 600. The mix of schools includes grammar schools and schools specialising in areas like agriculture or military. It includes schools close to towns and cities to those in more rural locations, and a wide

range with academic results as good as any in the UK. Parents of boarders at state boarding schools choose them for a host of reasons, including academic quality, the chance for their child to fulfil their potential and the opportunity to take part in an extraordinary wide range of activities. Most importantly however, over 90% say their child is happy boarding and would recommend their school and boarding to others.

Members of The BSA State Boarding Forum (SBF) represent enormous diversity. These are dedicated, hard-working professionals who don't just go the extra mile, day after day, to look after boarding students, but meet the stringent standards set by the Government's National Minimum Boarding Standards for England.



Over 70,000 pupils across England benefit from a boarding education, including over 4,000 at state boarding school. Their parents, with them, decide on state boarding carefully and wisely. Because they know they will witness the development of young students who are not just accomplished in the classroom,

but confident, assured and well-grounded too as they prepare to face the real world.

This guide makes it easy to learn and understand more about the great things offered by British state boarding schools. I hope you find it helpful.



**Robin Fletcher**  
CEO, BSA Group

# Why choose an SBF school?

*“My sons had a fantastic range of courses to choose from at GCSE and A Level”*

*Parent*

**There are many reasons for choosing a state boarding school for your child. Here are just a few:**

## Excellent education

All state boarding schools and academies follow the National Curriculum and pupils take the same exams as they would in a state day school. Whilst the exams are the same, the performance exceeds that of many other schools with state boarding schools frequently featuring at the top of league tables. This applies to both selective and non-selective schools. Some state boarding schools offer the International Baccalaureate in the sixth form.

## Top quality boarding facilities

The boarding facilities are indistinguishable from those at independent schools. Following investment in recent years many schools have new boarding houses with modern facilities and all are supported by staff who are totally committed to the well-being of the children. By selecting a state boarding school parents are choosing the very best boarding care.

## Affordable boarding education

When you can get top quality, education combined with state-of-the-art boarding facilities it is easy to see why so many parents choose state boarding education for their children. Boarding fees are similar to those at independent schools. However, because tuition is free the total cost is much lower at SBF schools, while standards of care, education and facilities compare very favourably to private schools.

## Wide choice of schools

Parents will usually find a school that meets their requirements – however specific they are. There are selective schools and comprehensive schools; co-ed and single-sex schools; primary schools, secondary schools and sixth form colleges; specialists in many different subjects; predominantly boarding or minority boarding. The schools are spread throughout England.

SBF schools offer a diverse educational experience and include Prep/Junior, Boys’ and co-ed (there are not any Girls’ schools), selective (Grammar) and non-selective, academies, sixth form colleges and senior schools with sixth form.

# Frequently asked questions

## Who can be a boarder at a state boarding school?

State boarding schools welcome children from all backgrounds. They can admit UK pupils. Children from outside the UK need to have the right of residence in the UK before they can be accepted as boarders.

Please note that the holding of a BN(O) passport does not make the child eligible for a State Boarding School in the UK.

## What is a state boarding school?

A state school, free school, or academy which provides boarding for at least some of its pupils. Boarding fees are low because whilst they cover the cost of providing the boarding place; the school, like every state school in England and Wales, does not charge for education.

### What is it not?

It is not a residential school, Borstal, approved school, special needs school or 'military school' in the American sense of being a 'boot camp' for children who lack discipline or have behavioural difficulties. In fact, it is pretty much like an independent boarding school in most respects.

## How many state boarding schools are there?

There are 32 SBF schools but only 31 have decided to be included in this publication. Of these two are sixth form colleges.

Several schools now have academy status, and more will surely follow, but this status makes no difference to pupils within the schools, or to parents considering applying.

## How much will a state boarding place cost me?

This will vary from school to school – geography influences the school's own costs – and from year to year – sixth form places may be slightly more expensive than the younger years. Schools charge fees to cover the cost of providing boarding and vary between about £10,000 and £17,000 per year. Prices are not listed here because they will change every year.

**Why are the fees low?**

Because the schools are not charging for teaching at all – in the UK, education provided by the state is free at the point of access and state schools are not permitted to charge for tuition.

**Is there a centralised system for applications?**

No. If you live in England and will be applying for a place at a state boarding school at the normal time when children transfer to secondary school in your local authority area, you will need to apply to the school of your choice and also need to apply to your home local authority. Otherwise you simply apply to the individual school.

**When should I apply?**

For admission in any September, apply from the previous September. Be ready to do so as early in September as possible and you MUST do so by the national closing date at the end of October if you are applying for a Year 7 (11+) place. This will mean enquiring and visiting and making choices in the summer term of the year preceding entry. For entry at age 11, successful applicants will be notified they have a place on the Common Admission Date, 1 March preceding the September of entry. Schools will have different numbers of pupils for day places and for boarding places, but all are notified on the same date.

State boarding places in sixth forms are particularly popular, so early application a year ahead of admission is sensible. For application ‘in year’ for whatever reason, it is always worth asking the school in

which you are interested does it have a space in class, and does it have an available bed in boarding. If they do, they may be able to make a swift admission at any time of the year.

**Do I have to live in the school’s catchment area?**

No, not for a boarding place – for boarders, effectively there is no catchment area.

**Do any of them take Junior boarders**

Yes, at least two to do and please see details of individual schools in this publication.

**If my child becomes a boarder, will they be gone for months on end?**

Most state boarding schools will have an ‘exeat’ (home leave) weekend every three weeks, in addition to the usual half terms. Increasingly, they are providing weekly boarding, with boarders at home for weekends, if that is what families prefer. Please enquire of the school you choose what their pattern is. If you wish your child to be at school at the weekend, ask about their programme of weekend activities.

**Are there any girls’ only schools?**

No.

**Will one of these schools be as good as an independent boarding school?**

In terms of pastoral care, yes. In terms of activities, almost certainly. In terms of facilities, probably. Many of them are extremely high-performing schools academically. Class sizes are likely to be larger than they would be in the independent sector. But every school, whether independent or state boarding, is different, so check out your choices carefully.

**Who can apply for a state boarding place?**

- A citizen of the UK
- A British passport holder who may live abroad
- A student with 'Right of Residence' in Britain – e.g. if they have a parent with right of residence here for work purposes.



# Notes

SBF schools are not licenced to support students who require a child or student visa to study in the UK.

'Right of residence' does not arise because a child attends a boarding school in Britain, it must be held before a place can be offered.

Holding a British National (Overseas) passport does not automatically make the child eligible for a place at a state boarding school, however, they may be legible if the child and parent(s) are resident in the UK.

## If my child does not get a place, what then?

Every school will have and publish an Appeal Procedure.

## Can I take a boarding place then change it for a day place?

No. Schools have separate admission numbers for their day and boarding populations. Transfer is not an easy process. To take a boarding place and wish to transfer to a day place is to deprive another applicant of a boarding place.

## Will the school make the most of my child's academic potential?

State Boarding Schools have a very good record of academic results at both GCSE and A Level/IB, and in most state boarding schools, the majority of leavers go on to university. However, the most important thing is how the school matches your child's profile and aspirations; not all children want to go to university or are suited to doing so. Look carefully at school data on results and destination of leavers for further guidance.

## Do any of them offer IB?

Yes, a number do and please see details of individual schools in this publication.

## So how do I choose a school?

Some things to consider do you want:

- A large school or a small one
- A big community of 650 in one of our colleges, or a small one offering as few as 30 boarding places
- A school close to where you live – most boarding parents these days live within an hour's journey of the school so they can attend matches and plays etc.
- Admission into Y7, Y9, or the sixth form
- A school with something specific in addition to what a school would normally provide – e.g. very strong sports or music or drama for instance.

With these questions in mind, look on the SBF website [www.stateboarding.org.uk](http://www.stateboarding.org.uk) and into schools' own websites to get the feel of the schools. Then visit your 'top schools'. Involve your child in the selection process. He or she will be asked if they really want to be a boarder and the school you choose together will be their home for several years – it is important that it feels right for them.

SBF cannot advise on individual choices of schools.



*“The sixth form is outstanding: students attain high grades at A-level and leave school very well prepared for further study or training.”*

*Ofsted*

*“The teachers are nice, and the school provides a peaceful, calm environment.”*

*Pupil*



*“It’s like one big sleepover for the children with their extended family; and their learning is fun.”*

*Parent*

# Benefits of Boarding

**Modern boarding is a flexible option with many state boarding schools offering weekly as well as termly boarding. Boarding has many benefits:**

- Plenty of home comforts and a warm welcome
- They help children to develop confidence and independence
- Boarders have the best of both worlds – a ready-made circle of friends in their boarding house and the chance to mix with local children
- They provide continuity and stability, for example for children whose parents’ work involves frequent changes of location or where parents work long hours

- They offer a range of worthwhile evening and weekend activities

By visiting some schools with your child, you will be able to choose the most suitable one. All schools have arrangements for helping new boarders to settle in and the great majority of boarders get used to their new surroundings very quickly. However, if any do experience problems, help is always at hand.

Boarding in the sixth form is a popular option for many pupils as it is an excellent preparation for university life or employment away from home. Many state boarding schools have sixth forms and there is also the option of a further education college.

# Summary of Boarding Provision

Page	School	Area	Type of School	No. of Pupils	Age Range	Boys (B)/Girls(G)	No. of Boarding Places
20	Beechen Cliff School	Bath	Comprehensive Academy	1,300	11-19	B/G*	(boys only) 34
20	Brymore Academy	Somerset	Academy	320	11-17	B	150
21	Burford School	Oxon	Academy	1,166	11-18	B/G	100
21	Colchester Royal Grammar School	Essex	Grammar	1,002	11-18	B/G*	30
22	Cranbrook School	Kent	Grammar	877	13-18	B/G	260
22	Dallam School	Cumbria	Comprehensive	1,050	11-19	B/G	139
23	Exeter College	Devon	Tertiary College	12,000	16+	B/G	78
23	Gordon's School	Surrey	Academy	944	11-18	B/G	272
24	Haberdashers' Adams	Shropshire	Selective Grammar	1,044	11-18	B/G*	(boys only) 100
24	Hockerill Anglo-European College	Hertfordshire	Comprehensive	843	11-19	B/G	300
25	Holyport College	Berkshire	Comprehensive	500	11-19	B/G	225
25	Keswick School	Cumbria	Comprehensive	1,340	11-18	B/G	53
26	Lancaster Royal Grammar School	Lancaster	Grammar	1,275	11-18	B/G**	183
26	Liverpool College	Liverpool	Academy	1,544	4-19	B/G	21
27	Old Swinford Hospital	Stourbridge	Comprehensive	1,300	11-18	B/G	358
27	Peter Symonds College	Hampshire	Sixth Form College	4,000	16-19	B/G	78
28	Reading School	Reading	Academy	1,100	11-18	B	80
28	Richard Huish College	Somerset	Sixth Form College	2,000	16-19	B/G	52
29	Ripon Grammar School	North Yorkshire	Selective Grammar	940	11-18	B/G	112
29	Royal Alexandra and Albert School	Surrey	Voluntary Aided	1,150	7-18	B/G	500
30	Sexey's School	Somerset	Comprehensive	595	11-18	B/G	198
30	Shaftesbury School	Dorset	Comprehensive	1,081	11-18	B/G	108
31	St George's School, Harpenden	Hertfordshire	Academy	1,340	11-18	B/G	120
31	Steyning Grammar School	West Sussex	Community School & Sixth Form College	2,021	11-18	B/G	120
32	The Duke of York's Royal Military School	Kent	Academy	500+	11-18	B/G	500+
32	The Royal Grammar School	Buckinghamshire	Grammar	1,350	11-18	B	70
33	The Royal School, Wolverhampton	West Midlands	Free School	1,485	4-19	B/G	110
33	The Thomas Adams School	Shropshire	Academy	1,200	11-18	B/G	64
34	The Wellington Academy	Wiltshire	Academy	1,000	11-18	B/G	100
34	Wymondham College	Norfolk	Academy	1,278	11-18	B/G	650
35	Wymondham College Prep School	Norfolk	Academy	145	4-11	B/G	32

# Directory of Schools



**BEECHEN CLIFF**

## Beechen Cliff School

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

Tel: 01225 480466

Alexandra Park, Bath, BA2 4RE

School type: Comprehensive Academy

Age Range: 11-19

Gender: Boys 11-16, with Boys and Girls in the sixth form

Number of pupils: 1,300

Boarding places: 34 (boys only)

Sixth form: 320

### Notes:

- High academic standards with a broad range of sports and activities
- Excellent academic results at GCSE and A Level
- Boarding provision rated as 'Good' by Ofsted in March 2020.



## Brymore Academy

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

Tel: 01278 652369

Cannington, Somerset, TA5 2NB

School type: Technical School

Age Range: 11-17

Gender: Boys

Number of Pupils: 200

Boarding Places: 150

### Notes:

- 100-acre farm, walled garden, blacksmithing forges, and workshops
- Strong focus on traditional manners and respect
- Small class sizes, sporting excellence, outstanding teaching with top progress results.



## Burford School

[www.burford.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.burford.oxon.sch.uk)

Tel: 01993 823303

Cheltenham Road, Burford. Oxon, OX18 4PL

School type: Academy

Age Range: 11-18

Gender: Boys and Girls

Number of Pupils: 1,420

Boarding places: 100

Sixth form: 230

### Notes:

- Outstanding academic achievement at GCSE and A Level
- Wide range of extra-curricular activities and opportunities
- Strong academic and pastoral support within day and boarding.



## Colchester Royal Grammar School

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

Tel: 01206 509100

Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3ND

School type: Grammar

Age Range: 11-18

Gender: Boys 11-18

(Girls in sixth form)

Number of pupils: 1002

Boarding places: 30

Sixth form: 400

### Notes:

- Consistently ranked in the national Sunday Times Parent Power top 10 state secondary schools
- Over 35 Oxbridge offers every year
- Family atmosphere and excellent pastoral care.



**Cranbrook School**

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

Tel: 01580 711800

Cranbrook, Kent, TB17 3JD

School type: Grammar

Age Range: 13-18

Gender: Boys and Girls

Number of pupils: 877

Boarding Places: 260

Sixth form: 310

**Notes:**

- Our school and boarding are rated 'Outstanding' by Ofsted
- Envious academic results and our leavers head to a variety of destinations including Oxbridge and many Sutton Trust universities
- Excellent pastoral care, superb facilities, and co-curricular programme
- The school is set in an idyllic 75-acre campus in the heart of the Weald of Kent.



**Dallam School**

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

Tel: 015395 63377

Heversham, Milnthorpe, Cumbria, LA7 7DD

School type: Comprehensive

Age range: 11-19

Gender: Boys & girls / co-educational

Number of pupils: 1050

Boarding places: 139

Sixth form: 200

**Notes:**

- High academic standards with an extensive programme of sports, clubs, performing arts and outdoor pursuits, including Duke of Edinburgh Award
- Set in an enviable, safe location on the edge of the English Lake District World Heritage Site
- Modern, individual, en-suite rooms, and traditional shared boarding rooms
- Full, weekly and flexi boarding. No exeat weekends. 5% discount to service families
- *"...the relationships between boarders and staff are extremely good, and the general standard of behaviour and community spirit exhibited by the boarders was excellent, and amongst the best I have encountered."*

Boarding Schools' Association 2021



**Exeter College**

<https://exe-coll.ac.uk/>

Tel: 01392 400500

Hele Road, Exeter, Devon, EX4 4JS

School type: Tertiary College

Age Range: 16+

Gender: Mixed Gender

Number of pupils (total):

Approx. 12,000

Boarding places: 78

**Notes:**

- Outstanding School (Ofsted 2014)
- High academic standards with a broad range of sports and activities
- Hosting a new South West Institute of Technology Digital and Data Centre, set to complete construction early 2021
- 'Early Adopter' of new T Level qualifications, the only provider in Devon to offer them for 2020 delivery.



**Gordon's School**

[www.gordons.school](http://www.gordons.school)

Tel: 01276 858084

West End, Woking, Surrey, GU24 9PT

School type: Academy

Age Range: 11-18

Gender: Boys and Girls

Number of Pupils: 944

Boarding places: 272

Sixth form: 324

**Notes:**

- Sixth Form (84% of the A Level grades A\*-B)
- Listed as one of Britain's outstanding schools by Her Majesty's Chief Inspector
- Over 90% of Sixth Formers reach their chosen destination after A Levels
- Top one per cent of all schools in England and Wales for progress at A Levels.



### Haberdashers' Adams

[www.adamsgs.uk](http://www.adamsgs.uk)

Tel: 01952 953810

High Street, Newport, Shropshire,  
TF10 7BD

School type: Selective Grammar

Age Range: 11-18

Gender: Boys 11-16, Boys and Girls in sixth form

Number of Pupils: 1,044

Boarding places: 100 (boys only)

Sixth form: 380

**Notes:**

- One of the top-performing schools in the UK with a strong alumni community
- Recommended by the Good Schools Guide and judged Outstanding by Ofsted
- A huge variety of enrichment activities supported by a strong House system
- Two boarding houses, providing a 100-acre countryside setting for the younger boys and a small market town location for the senior boys by the main school site.



### Hockerill Anglo-European College

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

Tel: 01279 658451

Dunmow Road, Bishop's Stortford,  
Hertfordshire, CM23 5HX

School type: Comprehensive

Age Range: 11-19

Gender: Boys and Girls

Number of pupils: 843

Boarding places: 300

Sixth form: 250

**Notes:**

- Sunday Times Schools Guide 2020 – highest-placed school in country based on sixth form results (Table of Comprehensive and Partially Selective schools)
- Outstanding university destinations
- International focus, offering IB Diploma, Middle Years Programme and GCSEs
- 10% of our students who gained a UK university place went to Oxbridge this year.



### Holyport College

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

Tel: 01628 770442

Ascot Road, Holyport, Berkshire,  
SL6 3LF

School type: Comprehensive

Age Range: 11-19

Gender: Boys and Girls

Number of Pupils: 500

Boarding places: 225

Sixth form: 180

**Notes:**

- Opened in September 2014 on a brand new purpose built campus, the country's first boarding and day Free School
- An all ability co-educational school where every student excels academically
- Eton College is the sole educational sponsor, taking a leading role on the Governing body.



### Keswick School

[www.keswick.cumbria.sch.uk](http://www.keswick.cumbria.sch.uk)

Tel: 01768 772605

Vicarage Hill, Keswick, Cumbria,  
CA12 5QB

School type: Comprehensive

Age Range: 11-18

Gender: Boys and Girls

Number of pupils: 1,340

Boarding places: 53

Sixth form: 260

**Notes:**

- Outstanding A level and GCSE results
- Boarding students are happy and engage in a wide range of extra-curricular activities on an evening and weekends. They enjoy living in a boarding house run as an extended family in the heart of the Lake District National Park (UNESCO World Heritage Site)
- School and boarding rated as outstanding. 'Staff support remarkable experiences and opportunities for boarders. Boarders make excellent social and academic progress to provide here a strong foundation for future success (October 2018)'
- Transport service to and from local train stations and airports.



**Lancaster Royal Grammar School**

**www.lrgs.org.uk**

Tel: 01524 580632

East Road, Lancaster, LA1 3EF

School type: Grammar

Age Range: 11-18

Gender: Boys, Girls in Sixth form

Number of pupils: 1,275

Boarding places: 183

(Girls boarding in sixth form)

Sixth form: 400

**Notes:**

- School and boarding rated “outstanding” in all categories by Ofsted
- Excellent results place LRGS consistently in the top 2% of state schools for GCSE and A-level
- We offer state-of-the-art boarding facilities, excellent pastoral care and an extensive range of activities
- Outstanding for Boarding (Ofsted 2019)
- Extracurricular excellence, offering Rowing, Rugby, Cricket, CCF and over 100 clubs and societies
- School endowed in 1472 offering a rich history and a thriving Old Lancastrian network.



Liverpool College

**Liverpool College**

**www.liverpoolcollege.org.uk**

Tel: 0151 724 4000

Queens Drive, Liverpool L18 8BG

School type: Academy

Age Range: 4-19, Boarding at 11-19 (boys and girls)

Gender: Boys and girls

Number of pupils: 978 from Year 7-13 (1,544 pupils from Reception to Y13)

Boarding places: 21

Sixth form: 250

**Notes:**

- Leafy 28-acre campus, new boarding house on campus
- Ofsted Outstanding rated in all categories
- Complete structured and staffed programme of sport, activities and academic for day and boarding pupils daily
- Outstanding results and university matriculations including Oxbridge, Medicine
- Excellent pastoral provision and focus on the individual boarder
- Five miles from Liverpool Airport, close to all transport links
- Full or weekly boarding, no exeat weekends.



**Old Swinford Hospital**

**www.oshsch.com**

Tel: 01384 817300

Heath Lane, Stourbridge, DY8 1QX

School type: Comprehensive

Age Range: 11-18

Gender: Co-ed Years 7-8 and Sixth form, Boys only Years 9-11

Number of pupils: 1,300

Boarding places: 358

Sixth form: 400

**Notes:**

- Excellent academic subjects. Broad curriculum embraces both traditional and academic subjects
- Rated “Outstanding” for boarding, Ofsted 2019. “Pupils make significant progress in their confidence and independence as well as school work”
- Modern boarding houses
- Outstanding extra-curricular opportunities that enrich school life and develop potential.



**Peter Symonds College**

**www.psc.ac.uk**

Tel: 01962 857500

Owens Road, Winchester, Hants, SO22 6RX

School type: Sixth form college

Age range: 16-19

Gender: Boys and Girls

Number of Pupils: 4,000

Boarding places: 78

Sixth form: 4,000

**Notes:**

- Wide range of academic courses and cultural, music and sporting activities
- Excellent academic results
- Strong learning support department.



### Reading School

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

Tel: 0118 901 5600

Erleigh Road, Reading, Berkshire  
RG1 5LW

School type: Academy

Age Range: 11-18

Gender: Boys

Number of Pupils: 1,100

Boarding places: 80

Sixth form: 350

**Notes:**

- Ofsted – “Outstanding” in all areas – February 2020 report. “Boarding is integral to the life of the school ... a culture of continuous improvement”
- Weekly boarding with an environment that focuses as much on the development of exceptional young people, as well as outstanding academic outcomes
- Exceptional destinations for boarding students, including Oxbridge and other leading institutions. Boarders benefit from having the Head of Sixth Form and Medical Society coordinator as residential boarding staff.



### Richard Huish College

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

Tel: 01823 320800

South Road, Taunton, Somerset  
TA1 3DZ

School type: Sixth Form College

Age range: 16-19

Gender: Boys and Girls

**Notes:**

- Offers a wide range of A Level courses, Vocational courses and Apprenticeships to students aged 16 to 19
- A leading provider of Apprenticeships in Taunton and Somerset.



### Ripon Grammar School

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

Tel: 01765 602647

Clotherholme Road, Ripon,  
North Yorkshire, HG4 2DG

School type: Selective Grammar

Age Range: 11-18

Gender: Boys and Girls

Number of pupils: 940

Boarding places: 112 (co-ed)

Sixth form: 330

**Notes:**

- Education and boarding rated outstanding (Ofsted)
- Named the ‘Top state school in the North’ by The Sunday Times for seven years running
- In the top 2% of schools nationally for pupil progress
- Exceptional pastoral care with a wide range of cultural, sporting and music activities
- The majority of students win places at leading universities, including Oxbridge, with boarders being among our highest achievers
- Fantastic sports facilities including a new 3G pitch and sports pavilion set in 27 beautiful acres
- “A high-achieving school without being highly pressured, with learning and life skill opportunities valued as much as examination success.”(Good Schools Guide).



### Royal Alexandra and Albert School

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

Tel: 01737 649000

Gatton Park, Reigate, Surrey, RH2  
0TD

School type: Voluntary Aided

Age range: 7-18

Gender: Boys and Girls

Number of pupils: 1,150

Boarding places: 500

Sixth form: 250

**Notes:**

- Offers an Ofsted Outstanding boarding experience
- One of the few boarding schools to offer junior, as well as senior boarding
- Excellent results with many students achieving places at top universities
- Superb facilities include equestrian centre, swimming pool, all weather pitches. All within 260 acres of beautiful Surrey parkland.



**Sexey's School**

**www.sexeyes.somerset.sch.uk**

Tel: 01749 813393

Cole Road, Bruton, Somerset,  
BA10 0DF

School type: Academy

Age range: 11-18

Gender: Boys and Girls

Number of pupils: 595

Boarding places: 198

Sixth form: 101

**Notes:**

- Happy and motivated students who regularly achieve among the best results in the South West at GCSE and rated top 1% nationally at A Level 2021 (ALPs)
- Extensive extra-curricular programme including karting, chess, Duke of Edinburgh and CCF
- Excellent pastoral and careers support, with 63% of students progressing to Russell Group universities, including Oxbridge
- Based in beautiful Bruton, Somerset – voted among *Sunday Times* Top Places to Live.



**Shaftesbury School**

**www.shaftesburyschool.com**

Tel: 01747 854498

Salisbury Road, Shaftesbury, Dorset,  
SP7 8ER

School type: Comprehensive

Age range: 11-18

Gender: Boys and Girls

Number of pupils: 1,081

Boarding places: 108

Sixth form: 258

**Notes:**

- “Outstanding” outcomes for boarders
- Two hours from London
- Bright, modern and homely boarding facilities
- Excellent record of progression to top universities, including Oxbridge
- Extensive range of extra-curricular activities and opportunities
- Situated in idyllic North Dorset
- A real “home away from home” for those from the UK and abroad.



**St George's School, Harpenden**

**www.stgeorges.herts.sch.uk**

Tel: 01582 765477

Sun Lane, Harpenden, Hertfordshire  
AL5 4TD

School type: Academy

Age range: 11-18

Gender: Boys and Girls

Number of pupils: 1,340

Boarding places: 120

Sixth form: 330

**Notes:**

- 11-18 coeducational boarding at one of the best performing non-selective schools in the UK for less than £5,000 per term
- Named as the *Sunday Times* Schools Guide Comprehensive School of the Year 2019
- A thriving boarding community where “boarders thoroughly enjoy the boarding experience” and where “the camaraderie and friendships provide them with peer support and ensure that activities are enjoyable” (OFSTED 2019)
- A unique blend of academic drive and co-curricular and sporting provision at all levels from the elite to the recreational
- Less than an hour by road from Heathrow, Stansted and Luton.



**Steyning Grammar School**

**www.sgs.uk.net**

Tel: 01903 817601

Church Street, Steyning, West Sussex,  
BN44 3LB

School type:

Community school and Sixth Form College, Church of England VA

Age Range: 11-18

Gender: Boys and Girls

Number of pupils: 2,021

Boarding places: 120

Sixth form: 507

**Notes:**

- An Ofsted “Outstanding” State boarding School in England (Ofsted 2013)
- A beautiful West Sussex rural local, providing an environment where students strive to be the best they can be
- Results are consistently higher than the national average, last year 100% of boarding GCSE students achieved 5 A\*-C grades, with A level students achieving 100% overall pass rate
- Accepting students into year 9 (GCSE) & Year 12 (A-levels and BTECH).



### The Duke of York's Royal Military School

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

Tel: 01304 245023  
Guston, Dover, Kent, CT15 5EQ

School type: Academy

Age Range: 11-18  
Gender: Boys and Girls  
Number of pupils: 500+  
Boarding places: 500+  
Sixth form: 192

**Notes:**

- Set in over 150 acres of Kent Countryside and ranked in the top 2% of schools in England for GCSE progress 8, the school provides an all-round education with a strong academic focus
- The award-winning school, with outstanding leaders and managers (Ofsted 2018), offers a unique blend of academic school life, sports, and the arts combined with an impressive military heritage
- Open to all 11-18 year olds, the school boasts an excellent extra-curricular programme where every student is encouraged to achieve and develop leadership, initiative, creativity and independence
- Recent £24.9 million refurbishment project generated unrivalled facilities.



### The Royal Grammar School

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

Tel: 01494 524955  
Amersham Road, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, HP13 6QT

School type: Grammar

Age Range: 11-18  
Gender: Boys  
Number of Pupils: 1,350  
Boarding places: 70  
Sixth form: 400

**Notes:**

- Contemporary purpose-built boarding house with extensive modern facilities, All Sixth formers and GCSE students have single en suite rooms
- Last three Ofsted reports indicated that the boarding was "Outstanding" (2013, 2016, 2019)
- High academic standards, superb results on national level and Boarders have for the past decade received higher academic results than their day peers. Last year's boarders achieved 90% A\*-B at A level
- Exceptional sporting pedigree and wide ranging co-curricular programme with outstanding gym facilities.



### The Royal School, Wolverhampton

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

Tel: 01 902 341230  
Penn Road, Wolverhampton, West Midlands, WV3 0EG

School type: Free School

Age Range: 4-19, boarding at 11-19  
Gender: Boys and girls  
Number of Pupils: 784 from Yr 7-13 (1,485 students from Reception to Yr13)  
Boarding places: 110  
Sixth form: 124

**Notes:**

- July 2019, Ofsted inspection confirmed that "personal development and welfare is outstanding"
- Excellent results from a non-selective school
- Excellent pastoral care
- Large green campus over three sites with great sporting facilities
- Elite Swimming Squad and link with Wolverhampton Wanderers Academy
- Broad and academically demanding curriculum in the Sixth Form
- STEM specialism
- Extended day for all pupils with a large range of extra-curricular activities
- Full or weekly boarding; no exeat weekends.



### The Thomas Adams School

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

Tel: 01939 233311  
Lowe Hill, Wem, Shropshire, SY4 5UB

School type: Academy

Age Range: 11-18  
Gender: Boys and Girls  
Number of pupils: 1,200  
Boarding places: 64  
Sixth form: 200

**Notes:**

- 25 A level and BTEC subjects offered, High academic standards
- Excellent, personalised pastoral care and support
- Expert university and careers advice
- Large selection of enrichment opportunities
- Extensive open and green location
- We celebrate diversity and are pleased to welcome students from a variety of cultural, religious and ethnic backgrounds
- "Young people enjoy their boarding experience and make good progress in many areas of their life" Ofsted 2019.



**The Wellington Academy**

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

Tel: 01264 405060

Tidworth, Wiltshire, SP11 9RR

School type: Academy

Age Range: 11-18

Gender: Boys and Girls

Number of pupils: 1,000

Boarding places: 100

Sixth form: 200

Notes:

- Boarding provision is rated Outstanding (OFSTED 2018)
- New state-of-the-art facilities, part of a £32 million campus
- Successful and expanding Sixth form
- Specialism – ICT, Business and Enterprise.



**Wymondham College**

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

Tel: 01953 609000

Wymondham, Norfolk, NR18 9SZ

School type: Academy

Age Range: 11-18

Gender: Boys and Girls

Number of Pupils: 1,278

Boarding places: 650

Sixth form: 440

Notes:

- OfSTED rated “Outstanding” in both boarding and academic inspections
- One of The Tatler Top 20 State Schools
- Extensive Wymondham Life Extra Curricular Programme
- Strong CCF Tradition
- Exchange Programmes with many schools across the world
- Quality, modern boarding facilities.



**Wymondham College Prep School**

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

Tel: 01953 609000 (option 3)

Wymondham, Norfolk, NR18 9SZ

School type: Academy

Age range: 4-11

Gender: Boys and Girls

Number of Pupils: 145 (rising to 452)

Boarding Places: 32

Notes:

- New free school opened in September 2020
- Brand new purpose-built boarding house opened in September 2021
- Co-located on Wymondham College 85-acre site in rural Norfolk
- Large variety of co-curricular opportunities
- Broad curriculum
- Close links with Wymondham College.

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# The SBF

The BSA State Boarding Forum represents state boarding schools of England. This directory has been produced to give parents an overview of the schools which offer state education combines with boarding.

The SBF cannot advise on availability of places and it is not involved in the process for placing pupils in SBF schools. These enquiries should be directed to the schools themselves using the contact details given in the directory entry.

If you have a more general enquiry or wish to know more about boarding you can contact the SBF on **020 7798 1580** or via the website at [www.stateboarding.org.uk](http://www.stateboarding.org.uk).



*“School is fun ... I’ve made so many friends  
since I came to this school”*

*Pupil*



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