

Best Secondary Schools in London

London's grip on the very top of the Parent Power rankings for both state and independent schools has been loosened in the past 12 months. This time last year, the capital had 10 of the top 20 schools in the independent sector and nine of the top 20 state schools — figures that have declined this year to eight and five respectively. The overall number of London schools in both rankings has remained broadly the same, however, (down by just three in both the state and independent sectors) while the southeast region is dominant.

The capital encompasses the best and worst of education. London primaries are hugely disproportionately represented in our primary school rankings, published last week, with 181 junior schools in the capital among the top 500. However, too many of the children from these schools go on to get lost in underachieving secondaries that are a million miles — or rather several hundred A*, A and B grades — away from the pages of Parent Power.

There is cause for some optimism, however, as recent initiatives begin to bear fruit. New free schools, such as Harris Westminster Sixth Form, are helping to change the educational landscape. Harris Westminster is a partnership between Westminster School, one of the country's most prestigious independents, and the Harris Federation, which has built up a network of 49 primary and secondary schools across the capital over the past 25 years, sponsored by Lord Harris, who built up the Carpetright empire.

Harris Westminster sits fourth in our new ranking of sixth-form colleges, with 41% of students gaining at least AAB in two or more facilitating subjects — those that keep most options open at university, including, maths, English, the sciences, languages, history and geography. Opened in 2014, results have improved every year with 75% of grades securing A*, A or B grades at A-level this summer.

London-based free schools have a firm grip on the top of the national sixth-form rankings. King's College London Mathematics School sits at the top and the London Academy of Excellence, in Stratford, is ranked third. Their progression rates to Oxbridge and other highly selective Russell Group universities challenge those of most independent schools.

Another recent addition to the capital's educational landscape, JCoSS (the Jewish Community Secondary School) is named London State Secondary School of the Year. Opened in 2010 for Jewish children regardless of affiliation or observance, it achieved record-breaking results this summer with 77% A*-B at A-level — good enough to make the school the top-ranked comprehensive in the capital and 16th overall behind 14 grammars and **The Camden School for Girls, which selects a small proportion of its girls on musical ability and aptitude, within an otherwise comprehensive intake.**

Despite the rapid advance of several relatively new schools in the capital, age is no barrier to success. Once again Queen Elizabeth's School, Barnet — founded in 1573 — tops both the London and the UK state school rankings. Competition for places at this boys' grammar is not for the faint-hearted: 2,400 sat the entrance exam last year — a pool that is 50% larger than just five years ago.

Queen Elizabeth's has a long way to go to match the dominance of St Paul's Girls' School, in the independent sector, which tops both the London and UK independent schools' rankings for the ninth

successive year. Taking mostly iGCSEs at 16, just four results fell short of A*/A, with A-level outcomes almost as good.

St Paul's Girls' holds off a resurgent Godolphin and Latymer School, which reaches its highest-ever ranking this year, winning our UK Independent Secondary School of the Year award in the process. The Hammersmith-based former grammar school provides some A-level classes for free to pupils at the Kensington Aldridge Academy, which belongs to a consortium with Godolphin and Latymer and Charterhouse.

Another independent school with a strong track record in furthering social mobility is the City of London School, founded in 1442. The boys' school is our London Independent Secondary School of the Year after surging to an all-time high in the UK rankings of 15th, a rise of 33 places on last year. Based in the City (and therefore with a very small immediate population), City recruits a socially and ethnically diverse school population from across London. Under head teacher Alan Bird, it is at the start of a five-year strategy, aimed at turning out boys who are "kind, aware, ready".

It is one of several boys' independents that have seen sharp rises in their national rankings this year, including Hampton School (up 12 places to 19th=); University College School in Hampstead (up 22 places to 22nd); and Whitgift School in Croydon (up 40 places to 39th).

Top state secondary schools in London

1. Queen Elizabeth's School, Barnet
2. Wilson's School, Wallington
3. The Henrietta Barnett School, Hampstead
4. The Tiffin Girls' School, Kingston upon Thames
5. St Olave's Grammar School, Orpington
6. Tiffin School, Kingston upon Thames
7. Sutton Grammar School
8. Nonsuch High School for Girls, Cheam
9. The Latymer School, Edmonton
10. St Michael's RC Grammar School, Finchley
11. Newstead Wood School, Orpington
12. Wallington County Grammar School
13. Wallington High School for Girls
14. Woodford County High School
15. **Camden School for Girls**
16. JCoSS (Jewish Community Secondary School), New Barnet
17. Townley Grammar School, Bexleyheath

18. JFS, Harrow
19. Twyford C of E High School, Acton
20. Hasmorean High School for Boys, Hendon
21. Ilford County High School
22. The Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School
23. Waldegrave School, Twickenham
24. Hasmorean High School for Girls, Mill Hill
25. Bexley Grammar School, Welling
26. The Charter School, Herne Hill
27. The St Marylebone C of E School
28. The London Oratory School, Fulham
29. Fortismere School, Muswell Hill
30. Alexandra Park School, Haringey

Top independent secondary schools in London

1. St Paul's Girls' School, Hammersmith
2. Godolphin and Latymer School, Hammersmith
3. King's College School, Wimbledon
4. St Paul's School, Barnes
5. Westminster School
6. City of London School
7. North London Collegiate School, Edgware
8. Hampton School
9. University College School, Hampstead
10. City of London School For Girls, Barbican
11. Highgate School
12. South Hampstead High School GDST
13. Latymer Upper School, Hammersmith
14. James Allen's Girls' School, Dulwich
15. Eltham College, Mottingham
16. Lady Eleanor Holles School, Hampton

17. Wimbledon High School GDST
18. Whitgift School, South Croydon
19. Channing School, Highgate
20. Putney High School GDST
21. Alleyn's School, Dulwich
22. Trinity School, Croydon
23. Notting Hill and Ealing High School GDST
24. Dulwich College
25. Bancroft's School, Woodford Green
26. Kingston Grammar School
27. Sydenham High School GDST
28. Ibstock Place School, Roehampton
29. Surbiton High School, Kingston upon Thames
30. Hampton Court House, East Molesey