

# The Sunday Times' best independent schools list names two in Guildford

St Peter's High School in Guildford has also been named as the comprehensive school of the year in the South East

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NEWS

BY

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**The Sunday Times has named Guildford High School as one of the top private schools** (Image: Google Maps)

Two private schools in [Guildford](#) have been named among the top independents in the country by The Sunday Times. Guildford High School took the overall gong for independent school of the year for the South East region. Meanwhile, St Peter's in Guildford was named as comprehensive school of the year for the South East. The Royal Grammar School was also listed among the top 10 privates in the region.

[The Sunday Times](#) names its top schools in its Parent Power list each year. The 30th edition is a definitive guide to secondary schools and has been made looking at the first set of results post-Covid-19.

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More than 1,600 schools can be searched by name, local authority, town and postcode, allowing families to find the best school in their area. The rankings in the secondary school league tables are determined by the percentage of examination entries gaining A\*-B at A-level (which is given double weighting) and the percentage of entries returning A\* and A grades, and those graded 9, 8 and 7, at GCSE and iGCSE.

Toby Miller, headteacher at St Peter's Catholic School, told the newspaper it was the faith-based sense of nurture that helped the students at his 1,300-strong school to a record set of results. It put them in the country's top 50 comprehensive schools netting them both The Sunday Times Comprehensive School of the Year and The Sunday Times Southeast Comprehensive School of the Year.



#### **Guildford's Royal Grammar School**

Mr Miller said: "When we returned to school in September 2021 there was no negative conversation or chat following the lockdown. The message was, you're in a good place, you've been taught well, there's no falling behind. Our attitude was, we're not going to let this [the pandemic and its effect on education] impact you or your future. Pupils had confidence in themselves and it really paid off."

Guildford High School won The Sunday Times Independent Secondary School of the Year in the Southeast for Academic Performance award. Executive headteacher Fiona Boulton credits the school's switch to online learning during the pandemic.

The girl's school head now wants to see the children busier than ever. She said: "We held them tight both pastorally and academically and you can see that reflected in the results. Happy children do well, and busy children do well. We need to have really vibrant extracurricular activities that pupils are actively engaged in.

"It is not about being perfect but getting it done. We have made it cool to be clever and the norm to be different."

The newspaper gave its Secondary School of the Year award to Wycombe High School in High Wycombe. While the top independent school in the country is Francis Holland School, in Sloane Square, central London.

Helen Davies, editor of The Sunday Times Parent Power guide, said: "These have been a challenging few years for teachers, pupils and their parents, and the success of many in our league table is testament to the stamina and support shown by all concerned. It is also clear that more attention is being placed on wellbeing and mental health – from meditation rooms to counselling support, even therapy dogs – and schools are being proactive to bring about positive changes.

"League tables are not the only criteria a parent can use when choosing a school, but they are a good starting point. We want to celebrate excellence. We want to champion schools that are doing wonderful work. We want our children to be well-nurtured and well-taught. In choosing a school parents are making one of the biggest decisions in their family life, and Parent Power and The Sunday Times is here to help."