

THE AWARD GOES TO ...

TOP SECONDARY SCHOOL BY ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE (AP)

Henrietta Barnett School, Hampstead, London

SECONDARY SCHOOL OF THE YEAR

Wycombe High School, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire

COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL OF THE YEAR

St Peter's Catholic School, Guildford, Surrey

TOP INDEPENDENT SCHOOL BY AP

St Paul's Girls' School, Brook Green, London

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL OF THE YEAR

Francis Holland School, Sloane Square, London



GUILDFORD HIGH SCHOOL

High-flyers at Guildford High School, the southeast Independent Secondary School of the Year

the Year Durham Johnston Comprehensive School Independent Secondary School of the Year Dame Allan's School (Girls' and Boys'), Newcastle upon Tyne Independent Secondary School of the Year (AP) Royal Grammar School, Newcastle upon Tyne

Northwest Secondary School of the Year Altrincham Grammar School for Girls Independent Secondary School of the Year Withington Girls' School, Manchester

Southeast Secondary School of the Year (AP) Reading School Secondary School of the Year Wycombe High School, High Wycombe Comprehensive School of the Year St Peter's Catholic School, Guildford Independent Secondary School of the Year Guildford High School

Southwest Secondary School of the Year Pate's Grammar School, Cheltenham Comprehensive School of the Year The Cotswold School, Bourton-on-the-Water

Independent Secondary School of the Year Cheltenham Ladies' College, Cheltenham

West Midlands Secondary School of the Year King Edward VI School, Stratford-upon-Avon Independent Secondary School of the Year King Edward VI High School for Girls, Birmingham

Wales Secondary School of the Year Ysgol Bro Preseli, Pembrokeshire Independent Secondary School of the Year Cardiff Sixth Form College

Northern Ireland Secondary School of the Year St Mary's Grammar School, Magherafelt

Scotland (based on 2021) Secondary School of the Year Williamwood High School, Glasgow Independent Secondary School of the Year (AP) Jordanhill, Glasgow Independent School of the Year (A-level) Fettes College, Edinburgh Independent School of the Year (Highers) St Mary's Music School, Edinburgh

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE SCHOOL OF THE YEAR

The Godolphin & Latymer School, Hammersmith, London

REGIONAL

East Anglia Secondary School of the Year King Edward VI Grammar School, Chelmsford Independent School of the Year Norwich High School for Girls Secondary Independent School of the Year (AP) The Perse School, Cambridge

East Midlands Secondary School of the Year The King's School, Grantham Comprehensive of the Year Northampton School for Boys Independent Secondary School of the Year Nottingham High School

Greater London Secondary School of the Year Mossbourne Community Academy, Hackney Comprehensive School of the Year The Coopers' Company and Coborn School, Upminster Independent School of the Year Francis Holland,

Sloane Square Independent School of the Year (AP) St Paul's Girls' School, Brook Green

North Secondary School of the Year (AP) Ripon Grammar School Comprehensive School of the Year Prince Henry's Grammar School, Otley Independent Secondary School of the Year Sheffield High School for Girls Independent Secondary School of the Year (AP) Queen Ethelburga's College

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THE SUNDAY TIMES
SCHOOLS GUIDE 2023
INDEPENDENT SECONDARY SCHOOL OF THE YEAR IN EAST ANGLIA



NORWICH HIGH SCHOOL
For Girls aged 3-18

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Parent Power

GREATER LONDON

The dominance of London as an educational powerhouse continues, with half the country's top ten secondary schools in the state and the fee-paying sectors located in the capital.

There is not only a postcode lottery at play, but a clever-clogs cachet. All the pupils at the top schools in the private and state sectors sit competitive entrance tests aged 11 or 13 to win a place. Many of the highest-performing schools in both sectors are single sex.

St Paul's Girls' School (SPGS) in west London, where 700 11-year-olds apply for 115 places, has topped the league tables for exam results in the fee-paying sector every year except one since 2011. Alumnae of the £27,792-a-year school include the Labour politician Harriet Harman, the broadcaster Rachel Johnson and the actresses Jennifer Saunders and Rachel Weisz. This summer 99.5 per cent of A-level papers taken by SPGS pupils were awarded A*-B, while 97.9 per cent of GCSEs were graded 9-7 or A*/A.

All pupils take a foundation course in coding and "creative technology" to prepare them for a world marked by "digital change", and there are dozens of clubs. Recognising the pressures on teenagers, the school last year set up a wellbeing centre. "Wellbeing sits at the very heart of fulfilment and academic success," the school said. It offers daily

access to counselling, "with a daily drop-in slot for ad-hoc visitors".

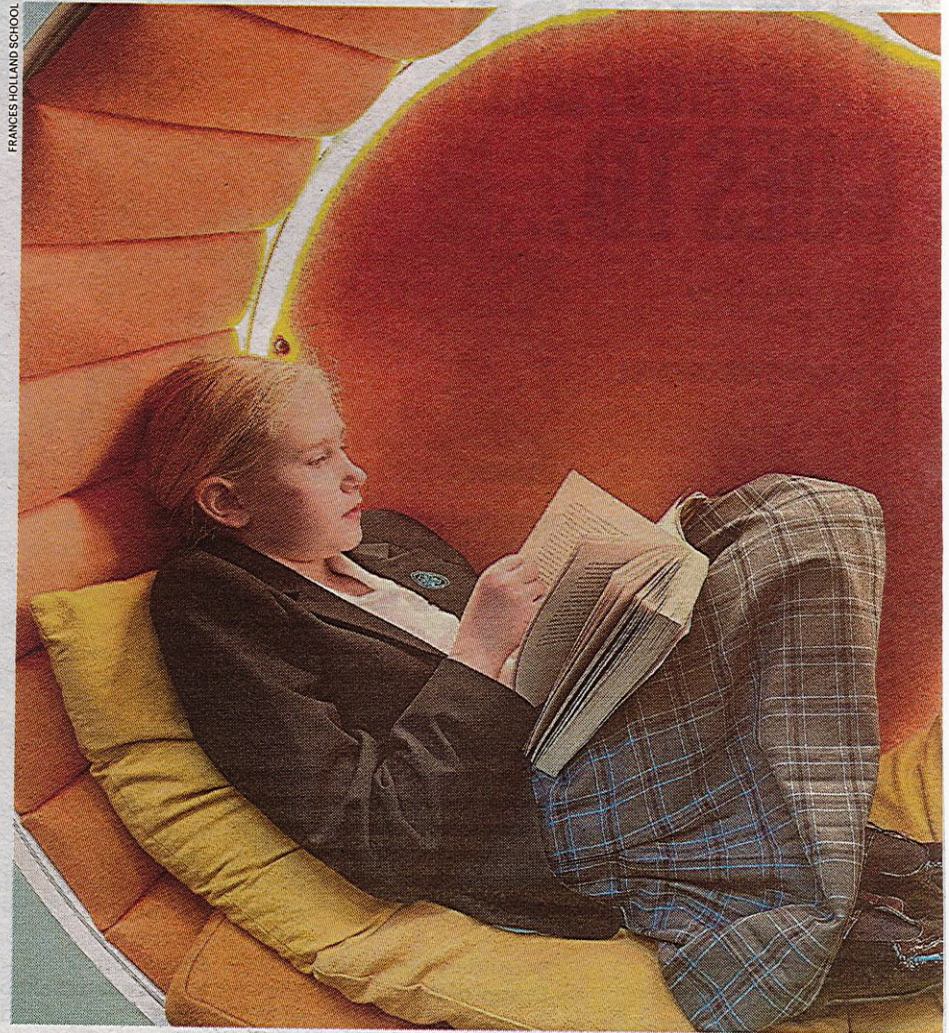
St Paul's Girls' is closely followed in the rankings by the nearby St Paul's boys' school, where 98.8 per cent of A-level papers were awarded A*-B.

It is notable that half of the top ten fee-paying schools are girls-only schools. They include the Godolphin and Latymer School in Hammersmith, where almost 900 girls apply for 120 places at the age of 11; Francis Holland, Sloane Square; City of London School for Girls; and North London Collegiate School.

“The magic triangle is pupils, teachers and parents working together”

In the state sector the top-performing schools are led once again by a girls' school. The Henrietta Barnett School (HBS), a grammar in Hampstead, north London, heads the state rankings, followed by Queen Elizabeth's School, a boys' grammar in Barnet. More than 3,000 11-year-olds sit entrance tests in maths and English for one of the 104 places on offer at HBS each year.

Clare Wagner, the head teacher, believes HBS's strong showing at the top of the state tables this summer is partly down to the school's response to lockdowns. "The teachers made the lessons good, the girls logged in [to the Google Cloud Platform] and submitted their work on time, and parents supported them to study at home," she says. "That is the magic triangle that produces good results: pupils, teachers, parents working together."



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A MEMBER OF THE GODOLPHIN AND LATYMER SCHOOL FOUNDATION

Pupils shine at Francis Holland, Sloane Square, left, and Mossbourne Community Academy, right



The school last year got 28 pupils into Oxbridge – one in five of the sixth form. Maths and physics are particularly strong subjects. However, the school was recently downgraded from “outstanding” to “good” by the schools inspectorate Ofsted, a judgment Wagner says the school formally appealed. “I said, how can you say that a sixth form that gets that kind of A-level results and Oxbridge success is only ‘good’?”

The highest-performing comprehensive school in the capital is the Coopers’ Company and Coborn School in Upminster, known as the East End Hogwarts. The school, which selects 10 per cent of its year 7 intake on aptitude for sport or music, has leapt from 208th= in the national rankings to 77th. On their return after lockdown, year 11 pupils were given a new motto: “Level up and power up.”

“The school stayed open every day in lockdown, and I was in every day,” Sue Hay, the head teacher, says. “We were overjoyed with the results, but we’re not

a factory. It is about building motivation and resilience through extracurricular activities.”

Mossbourne Community Academy is commended as the highest-achieving nonselective comprehensive in London. Its results have led to it jumping from 252nd= in the national rankings in pre-pandemic 2019 to 120th.

The school, which is surrounded by council estates in Hackney, east London – one of the poorest parts of the capital and an area where drugs gangs operate – was one of the country’s first academies in 2004. Mossbourne became one of the first state schools to send more than a dozen teenagers in a single year to Oxford and Cambridge universities.

Renowned for strict discipline and high expectations of pupils, there is a huge range of clubs in the evening at the school, which stays open into the evening, and even a rowing academy.

“We believe every child can succeed,” says Rebecca Warren, the head teacher, who is “particularly proud” of the school’s medical bursary programme for years 7-11, NHS Cadets, which has led to 84 pupils starting a career as a doctor. A similar programme for architecture, which starts in year 8, has led to nine former students training as architects, “a career path they possibly would not have considered”.

Warren is also proud that groups who underachieve nationally, such as poorer and black Caribbean pupils, “achieve significantly above the national average for all pupils” at Mossbourne.

Sian Griffiths

TOP 20

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

- 1** The Henrietta Barnett School, Hampstead
National rank: 1
- 2** Queen Elizabeth’s School, Barnet
2
- 3** Wilson’s School, Wallington
3
- 4** The Tiffin Girls’ School, Kingston upon Thames 4
- 5** St Olave’s Grammar School, Orpington 7
- 6** Tiffin School, Kingston upon Thames 22
- 7** The Latymer School, Edmonton 25
- 8** Newstead Wood School, Orpington 26
- 9** Wallington High School for Girls 27
- 10** Nonsuch High School for Girls, Cheam 31
- 11** Sutton Grammar School 32
- 12** St Michael’s RC Grammar School, Finchley 50
- 13** Wallington County Grammar School 56
- 14** Woodford County High School 66
- 15** Bexley Grammar School, Welling 67
- 16** The Coopers’ Company and Coborn School, Upminster 77
- 17** JFS, Harrow 80
- 18** Chislehurst and Sidcup Grammar School 82
- 19** Hasmore High School for Girls, Mill Hill 84
- 20** Ilford County High School 87

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

- 1** St Paul’s Girls’ School
National rank: 1
- 2** St Paul’s School, Barnes
2
- 3** King’s College School, Wimbledon
3
- 4** The Godolphin and Latymer School, Hammersmith 4
- 5** Westminster School 7
- 6** North London Collegiate School, Edgware 10
- 7** City of London School 11=
- 8** Francis Holland School, Sloane Square 13
- 9** City of London School for Girls 14
- 10** Hampton School 16=
- 11** Highgate School 21
- 12** Lady Eleanor Holles, Hampton 22
- 13** Trinity School, Croydon 23
- 14** Latymer Upper School, Hammersmith 25
- 15** Alleyn’s School 26
- 16** University College School, Hampstead 27
- 17** Dulwich College 28=
- 18** Merchant Taylors’ School, Northwood 33
- 19** Wimbledon High School GDST 35
- 20** South Hampstead High School GDST 36



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