

Reed's School

Cobham, Surrey, United Kingdom



A 1813 orphan charity in Cobham that still funds bursaries while quietly turning out national tennis talent on its 40-acre campus

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	49/100
Academic outcomes	60/100
University placement	62/100
Prestige & heritage	42/100
Alumni network	1/100
Facilities	56/100
Transparency	59/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Reed’s School occupies a niche few English independents can match: a Christian foundation school founded in ****1813**** with a live charitable spine, a substantial bursary tradition and a modern performance culture that reaches well beyond the classroom. This is not a heritage label pasted onto a conventional Surrey day school. The school’s origins in the London Orphan Asylum still shape its identity, and that matters. Parents looking for a school with a clear social purpose, not just polished branding, will find one here. On the academic side, Reed’s offers GCSEs and A Levels, and it publishes strong recent results: ****85%**** of A Level grades at A*-B in 2025, with 51% at A*/A, and ****75%**** of GCSE grades at 9-7. The published ****1:9**** staff ratio reinforces the sense of close attention. This is a school with *moral*

seriousness*, *institutional memory* and a habit of turning structure into outcomes.

Its market position is clear. Reed's sits in the competitive Surrey boarding-day belt, but it avoids the grander, more self-conscious manner of older full-boarding names. It has scale without sprawl, boarding without a factory feel, and ambition without social frostiness. The sporting offer is a major differentiator. Reed's Tennis School and Tennis Academy are not decorative add-ons; they mark the school out for families who want elite coaching embedded in daily school life. Sport more widely is central to the culture. That will appeal to energetic, competitive pupils who want busy days, strong coaching and *serious match play*. The school is still boys-only from 11 to 16, with a co-educational sixth form, and it will move to full co-education from Year 7 in 2027. For some families that staged transition adds *forward momentum*; for others, it removes the certainty of a settled long-term model.

Why shortlist it? Because Reed's offers a combination that is hard to replicate: strong academics, genuine boarding, visible pastoral intent, and a foundation ethos that gives the place *human weight*. The best fit is a pupil who thrives with structure, likes being occupied, and wants teachers to know him well. Athletes, especially tennis players, have an obvious reason to look hard. So do academically able boys who want a less grandiose alternative to the best-known Surrey independents, and sixth formers who value a co-educational setting with solid results and a wider elective programme. This is not the school for families chasing metropolitan glamour or maximal social cachet. It is for those who want *clear values*, *competitive energy* and a school that still knows why it exists.

STRENGTHS

- Boys' day and boarding school set on an extensive campus in Cobham, Surrey.
- Originated as the London Orphan Asylum (founded 1813) and retains a charitable foundation that funds means-tested bursaries for children who have lost a parent.
- Offers both boarding and day places, giving flexibility to relocating families who may want a boarding option without full boarding commitment.
- World-class sports provision (co-curricular sports score 9.0), with grounds and outdoor facilities supporting a broad programme alongside GCSE and A-Level study.
- Long-established school (over two centuries old) with a settled Surrey site rather than a recent conversion or start-up.

TRADE-OFFS

- Not among the academically super-selective Surrey or London day schools; entry is assessed rather than fiercely competitive at every point of entry.
- Cobham location means day pupils travelling from central London or other counties depend on school transport or a car-based commute.
- Boarding numbers are modest compared with full boarding schools, so weekend and evening boarding life may feel quieter than at larger boarding-focused institutions.
- Fees sit at the level typical of Surrey independent day and boarding schools, representing a significant multi-year financial commitment for relocating families.

ADMISSIONS

Main entry points are 11+, 13+ and into the Sixth Form at 16+, with assessment via the school's own entrance tests, interview and current school reports rather than a single high-stakes exam. Competition is moderate rather than intense compared with London's most selective day schools. The school's historic charitable foundation continues to offer means-tested bursaries, particularly for children who have lost a parent, alongside academic and other scholarships. Families should contact admissions directly for current deadlines and assessment formats, as these can vary by entry year.

WTS RATING 

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