

Wellington College

Crowthorne, United Kingdom



Built as the nation's memorial to the Iron Duke, this Berkshire campus later pioneered Britain's first happiness curriculum.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	79/100
Academic outcomes	78/100
University placement	76/100
Prestige & heritage	83/100
Alumni network	82/100
Facilities	84/100
Transparency	74/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Built as the national memorial to the Duke of Wellington, this Crowthorne school has long since moved beyond Victorian monumentality. What marks Wellington College out now is the mix of **full-bore ambition** and a pastoral model that does not treat wellbeing as an afterthought. The school is associated with Britain’s first happiness curriculum, and that matters because it signals a clear institutional choice: high performance, but not through the old grammar of stoicism and attrition. Parents looking at British boarding schools will also note the operational basics are strong: a ***10:1*** student-teacher ratio, average class size of ***18***, English as the language of instruction, and accreditation through ISI and HMC. This is not a niche experiment dressed up as tradition; it is a major, established boarding school

with a modern pastoral identity.

Academically, Wellington sits in the top tier of the UK independent market and has the outcomes to justify the claim. In the Class of 2024, 220 leavers produced **19 Oxbridge** places, with 86% progressing to top-100 universities and 61 to Russell Group institutions; Oxford took 10 and Cambridge 9. That profile places Wellington firmly in the camp of schools that deliver serious university progression without narrowing themselves to a single exam-factory identity. It is an Anglican school, British in curriculum, and co-educational at ages 13 to 18, which gives it a broad social and academic brief rather than the more cloistered feel of some older boarding names.

The fees place it exactly where its peers do: expensive, unapologetically so, and aimed at families shopping in the *upper reaches* of the British independent sector. The average annual fee is **£65,070** for boarders and **£47,790** for day pupils across the full ladder the school covers. That pricing buys scale, staffing and a campus life built for adolescents rather than children. Wellington belongs on a shortlist for families who want a *high-pressure school with a civilised manner*: bright, outward-facing teenagers who will use a large co-ed environment well; boarders who want the substance of a traditional English public school without the most *hard-edged* cultural baggage; and pupils who are academically strong but do not want their school years reduced to a narrow race for grades. It is less suited to children who need a small, intimate setting or who thrive only in highly sheltered environments.

STRENGTHS

- Offers a genuine choice of exam routes at Sixth Form, with A-Levels and the IB Diploma both on offer alongside iGCSEs, useful for internationally mobile families.
- Set on a large, self-contained 400-acre woodland estate in Berkshire, roughly 30 miles from London.
- Genuinely co-educational rather than a converted single-sex school.
- Internationally minded community, with pupils drawn from a wide range of nationalities.
- Holds an Excellent rating from its most recent ISI inspection

TRADE - OFFS

- Fees are substantial, at £55,000 a year for boarding and £30,000 for day pupils before extras.
- Entry is genuinely competitive rather than a formality, with selective assessment at every entry point.
- This is a large institution rather than an intimate one, which suits families wanting scale and choice more than those seeking a small, close-knit community.
- It sits some 30 miles from London, making a daily commute from central London impractical for day families.

ADMISSIONS

Main entry is 13+ (Year 9), with a smaller 14+ intake and roughly 50 places at 16+ (Sixth Form). At 13+, candidates sit the ISEB Common Pretest, submit references, then attend an assessment day with sample lessons and interview; 16+ applicants are shortlisted on personal statement and school reports before interview and Harkness-style group discussion. Academic and music scholarships are awarded via separate exam or audition but carry no automatic fee reduction; means-tested bursaries are the main route to reduced fees. Registration deadlines fall well in advance (June of Year 5 for 13+), and places are competitive at every entry point.

WTS RATING 

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