

Sydney Grammar School

Sydney, Australia



A College Street institution since 1857, pairing classical Latin and Greek study with the state's highest-placed independent-school HSC results.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	80/100
Academic outcomes	84/100
University placement	80/100
Prestige & heritage	81/100
Alumni network	82/100
Facilities	80/100
Transparency	74/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Latin and Greek still sit close to the centre of Sydney Grammar’s identity, and that tells you a lot about the school before you reach the HSC results. This is an old Sydney institution, founded in 1854, Anglican in tradition, day-only, and unapologetically **fiercely academic**. The appeal is not warmth-first pastoral packaging or glossy talk about “balanced” education; it is intellectual seriousness, a long-established culture of scholarship and a clear expectation that boys will keep up. The numbers back that up. MySchool records an ICSEA of ***1225***, with Year 9 Reading at ***642*** and Year 9 Numeracy at ***641***. Those are strong indicators of a high-performing, highly advantaged cohort, and parents should read them plainly: this is a school that moves fast and works hard.

The structure supports that academic pressure. A **10:1** student-teacher ratio and average class size of **18** give the school the staffing profile to teach closely and push able students hard. The website also shows a broad co-curricular frame rather than a narrow exam factory: music, debating, drama, cadets, chess and sport all have visible weight, with the GPS competition and boat club part of the school's established culture. The alumni record is substantial even on a conservative count, with 167 notable alumni catalogued in Wikidata across politics, business, scholarship, writing, the arts and elite sport. That breadth matters. Sydney Grammar does not produce a single type of success; it produces a *formidable* network of high-achieving former pupils.

Fees are expensive at an average of **AUD 52,410** a year across the full age range from 3 to 18, and parents are paying for a very specific proposition. What is special here is not novelty but concentration: a school with a deep academic tradition, visible cultural capital and the confidence to keep classical study on the table in modern Sydney. It belongs on a shortlist for boys who are bright, competitive, self-propelled and comfortable in a *high-pressure* environment where academic distinction carries real prestige. It is *not for the faint-hearted*, and that is part of its draw. Boys who need constant reassurance or a gentler pace will find better fits elsewhere; boys who want hard intellectual company, strong teaching and a school culture that treats scholarship as serious business will understand its appeal at once.

STRENGTHS

- Ranked third overall for HSC success rate in both 2024 and 2025 league tables, the highest-placed independent school in NSW both years
- One of Australia's oldest schools, founded by Act of the NSW Parliament in 1854 and continuously operating on its College Street site since 1857
- Offers up to 26 full academic scholarships each year plus means-tested fee-assisted places for boys who could not otherwise afford tuition
- Alumni include three Australian Prime Ministers (Edmund Barton, William McMahon, Malcolm Turnbull) and several High Court judges
- Feeds from two dedicated preparatory schools (St Ives and Edgecliff/Paddington) into the College Street senior school, giving families a structured K-12 pathway

TRADE-OFFS

- Single-sex boys' school with no coeducational option at any year level, which will not suit families wanting a mixed-gender environment
- Entry is highly selective and competitive, particularly for the main Year 7 intake, making it unsuitable as a fallback option for average-achieving students
- 2026 annual tuition is \$52,410 for Years 7-12, placing it among the more expensive independent day schools in Sydney
- Non-refundable \$300 application fee is charged regardless of outcome, and the school states timing of application does not affect selection chances

ADMISSIONS

Main entry is into Year 7 at the College Street campus, with earlier entry points into the St Ives and Edgecliff preparatory schools from Kindergarten. Applications are lodged online with a non-refundable \$300 fee; the school states application timing does not affect selection. Entry is academically selective, assessed via entrance and scholarship examinations, with up to 26 full scholarships and additional means-tested fee-assisted places offered annually. Competition for places is significant given the school's academic reputation.

NOTABLE ALUMNI (167)

SPORT: William Wilberforce Stephen, Charles Hammand, Charlie Fox, Clarrie Wallach, Darby Loudon, Emile de Lissa, Ernie Carr, Geoff Storey

MUSIC: Rob Hirst, Sam Fischer, James Mackay, Nigel Butterley, David Sydney Morgan

DRAMA: Adrian Consett Stephen, Mungo Ballardie MacCallum, Charles Firth, Dominic Knight, Julian McMahon, Bud Tingwell, Stephan Elliott, David Michôd

VISUAL_ARTS: Charles David Jones Bryant, Q5294395, Eden George, Max Dupain, James Muir Auld

LETTERS: Eben Gowrie Waterhouse, Peter Dunstan Hastings, Adrian Consett Stephen, Mungo Ballardie MacCallum, Dominic Knight, Dowell Philip O'Reilly, Mungo MacCallum, Harry Henry

POLITICS: Richard McCoy, Broughton O'Connor, Robert Fitzgerald, William McIntyre, Henry Newman, Thomas Rawlinson, William Abbott, Reginald James Black

SCIENCE: David Celermajer, Copland King, Leslie Vickery (Les) Waterhouse, Ernest Le Gay Brereton, Bryan Gaensler, Mungo MacCallum, John Hooton, Phil Harris

BUSINESS: Edward William Knox, Sir Claude Hill Reading, David Gonski, Alfred Robson, Gordon Fell, Q135694983, Q135695333, John Nobbs

WTS RATING



This profile summarises editorial research by World's Top Schools. Verify all admissions dates directly with the school before submitting. Sources are cited in the full online profile at WorldsTopSchools.com/schools/sch_33ebf8ac72.