

Hampton School

Hampton, United Kingdom



A 1557 grammar-school foundation on the Thames, where Molesey boathouse silverware rivals A-level success rates.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	77/100
Academic outcomes	81/100
University placement	78/100
Prestige & heritage	78/100
Alumni network	77/100
Facilities	74/100
Transparency	73/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

The hook at Hampton is the combination of age and appetite: a school founded in 1557 that still trades on **hard-edged academic ambition** rather than heritage theatre. It is a boys-only day school in Hampton for ages 11 to 18, teaching the British curriculum in English, and its market position is clear. This is not a soft, lifestyle-driven London day school; it is a **serious academic institution** with the cultural memory of a grammar school and the fee structure of a full independent. The average annual day fee across the school is ****£29,916****, which places Hampton in the upper tier of the UK day-school market without pushing into the most extravagant London pricing. Parents paying that sum are buying an established academic culture, not acres of branding.

What makes Hampton worth a shortlist is the density of signal around intellectual and extracurricular calibre. The school remained a voluntary aided grammar school until 1975, and that selective inheritance still matters. Its alumni record is not thin anecdote but broad evidence: **42 notable alumni** are catalogued in Wikidata, spanning politics, scholarship, writing, music and **11 elite athletes**. That spread fits the editorial tagline neatly. Hampton's identity is not only examination-led; it also carries real weight in sport, with rowing central enough to define the school's public image. The old foundation on the Thames is not decorative history. It shapes the offer.

The right student for Hampton is a boy who wants pace, competition and a peer group that treats effort as normal. It will suit the *self-propelled*, the bright, the sporty and the boy who thrives in a culture where standards are explicit. It will not suit families looking for a co-ed environment, a progressive educational philosophy, or a school built around therapeutic softness. Hampton is *not for the faint-hearted* and does not need to be. For the right child, that is the point: a *high-pressure, high-reward* school with deep roots, a strong alumni footprint and a clear sense of what it is.

STRENGTHS

- The school was inspected by the ISI in May 2023 and judged Excellent, the highest available outcome, across all categories.
- Sport, music and drama are all rated world-class, with visual arts outstanding, giving an exceptional co-curricular breadth alongside academics.
- Hampton is high-performing for both GCSEs and A Levels, and it is recognised as one of the top rowing schools in the country.
- In the most recent cycle the school secured 17 Oxbridge offers from 86 applications, with all 13 Oxford offers accepted and four further offers from Cambridge.
- Close links with the neighbouring Lady Eleanor Holles School give boys regular social and co-curricular contact despite the single-sex setting.
- There are around 96 pupils on completely free places, funded partly through the linked Fitzwygram Foundation, alongside further means-tested bursaries.

TRADE-OFFS

- Hampton is a fee-charging, boys-only private day school, so it is not an option for families seeking coeducation.
- Day fees stand at £29,916 per full academic year, plus additional charges, a significant financial commitment.
- No IB is offered and there are no plans to introduce it, so families wanting an International Baccalaureate route will need to look elsewhere.
- Boys may only sit for 11+ or 13+ entry and not both, meaning the main entrance routes are effectively single-shot and highly competitive.

ADMISSIONS

Entry points are principally 11+, 13+ and 16+, with occasional places at 12+ or 14+. Boys register in advance, sit written papers (English, maths and reasoning at 11+), and successful candidates are called for interview alongside a confidential reference from their current school. Boys may sit either the 11+ or 13+ exam but not both. Results for 11+ are released in February with an acceptance deadline in March. Sixth-form entry (16+) involves pre-tests, subject papers and an interview, with offers usually conditional on GCSE grades. Means-tested bursaries, including full free places, and modest academic scholarships (5-15% fee remission) are available.

NOTABLE ALUMNI (42)

SPORT: Jonny Searle, Paul Casey, Greg Searle, Andy Beattie, Chris Martin, Matt Brittin, Rupert Obholzer, Simon Amor

MUSIC: Tim Staffell, Murray Head, Jim McCarty, Paul Samwell-Smith, Daniel Pemberton, Brian May

DRAMA: Murray Head, Tyrone Power Sr., Christopher Haydon, Brian May

VISUAL_ARTS: Tim Staffell, Murray Head

LETTERS: Peter Lovesey, Justin Hulford, Nick Barratt, Walter Hayes, Imran Ahmad

POLITICS: Kenneth Baker, Baron Baker of Dorking, Barry Sheerman, Robert Hayward, Ian Cliff

SCIENCE: Brian May, Ian Cliff, Patrick Aryee

BUSINESS: Walter Hayes

WTS RATING 

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