

Charterhouse

Godalming, United Kingdom



One of England's Nine Great Public Schools, now fully coeducational, set on a 250-acre Surrey campus with IB scores averaging 37 points.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	79/100
Academic outcomes	78/100
University placement	76/100
Prestige & heritage	83/100
Alumni network	82/100
Facilities	81/100
Transparency	73/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Charterhouse trades on substance that still matters in the British boarding market: deep institutional history, a full boarding environment, and enough modernisation to keep it relevant. This is one of England’s Nine Great Public Schools, founded in 1611, and it now operates as a fully coeducational school for ages 11 to 18 on a 250-acre Surrey campus. That mix of old-school weight and present-day pragmatism is the point. Parents looking for a boarding school with inherited prestige can find plenty of options; Charterhouse earns its place on a shortlist because it couples that inheritance with current academic credibility, including IB results averaging 37 points. The school is not cheap. The average annual fee is ****£49,107**** for day pupils and ****£63,045**** for boarders, which places it firmly in the

expensive, high-stakes end of the UK independent market.

Academically, the numbers are strong and concrete. The student-teacher ratio sits at **10:1** and average class size at 18, both useful indicators in a school of this scale and type. Charterhouse offers a British curriculum in English, holds ISI and HMC accreditation, and sends pupils on to serious destinations: in the 2024 leavers' cohort of 200, 84% went to top-100 universities, with 15 to Oxbridge and 51 to Russell Group institutions; Oxford took 8 and Cambridge 7. That gives Charterhouse a *hard-edged academic* profile without reducing it to an exam factory. The school has enough scale and reputation to attract ambitious families, but the evidence that matters here is outcomes, and those outcomes are clear.

What is special about Charterhouse is its ability to offer *full-bore British boarding* without reading as a museum piece. The Anglican foundation remains part of the school's identity, but the sharper distinction now is between Charterhouse and schools that sell heritage more convincingly than they deliver present-day results. Charterhouse delivers both. It will suit students who want a serious boarding experience, who can thrive in a structured, socially dense environment, and who have the confidence to make use of a large campus and a high-expectation culture. It is a strong fit for pupils targeting selective universities and for families who want a school with status that still has to justify itself in current terms. It is a weaker fit for children who need a *gentler, less pressurised* atmosphere or for parents hunting value. This is a school for students who want to be stretched and are ready for a place with real institutional gravity.

STRENGTHS

- Charterhouse is one of the original nine English public schools reported upon by the Clarendon Commission, giving it a rare four-century institutional pedigree among UK boarding schools.
- The Surrey campus supports a wide programme of organised sport, including grass and AstroTurf pitches, a sports centre, tennis courts and a golf course.
- The school publishes strong results: in 2024, 33% of A-Level grades were A* and a further 32% at A, and its most recent ISI inspection carried a rating of Excellent.
- University outcomes are substantial: 84% of the 2024 cohort progressed to top-100 universities, with 15 Oxbridge places and 51 Russell Group destinations.
- Both day and boarding routes give access to the same academic and co-curricular programme, offering flexibility for local and relocating families alike.

TRADE-OFFS

- Fees sit at the top end of the UK independent sector, with boarding at £55,000 and day places at £30,000 annually, putting the school out of reach for most families without a bursary.
- Entry is heavily gated: assessment is by the ISEB Common Pre-Test, interview and a reference from the candidate's current school, with 13+ offers remaining conditional on later Common Entrance results.
- There is no on-site junior or prep department: the age range is 13 to 18, so relocating families with younger children must arrange interim schooling before the main entry point.
- The dominant single 13+ entry point makes mid-stage entry harder to secure and requires careful timing for international relocations.

ADMISSIONS

Main entry is at 13+ into Year 9, the traditional route for most boarders, though some places also arise at other stages. UK-based candidates typically register early, sit the ISEB Common Pre-Test online, and attend an interview and activity assessment at the school; a conditional offer is then confirmed against Common Entrance results in Year 8. A supporting reference from the candidate's current school is required throughout. The process is academically selective, and competition for boarding places - particularly from strong prep-school candidates - is high.

WTS RATING 

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