

St. Julian's School

Carcavelos, Portugal



British curriculum since 1932 on a former transatlantic cable estate steps from Carcavelos beach, teaching bilingually since 1935.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	78/100
Academic outcomes	80/100
University placement	80/100
Prestige & heritage	80/100
Alumni network	76/100
Facilities	76/100
Transparency	82/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

St. Julian’s holds a rare position in Portugal’s school market: a long-established British school, founded in ****1932****, with bilingual English-Portuguese teaching dating back to ****1935****, on a historic estate near Carcavelos beach. That combination matters. Many international schools in greater Lisbon offer an English-medium education; far fewer carry real institutional age, local roots and a settled bilingual identity. The setting at Quinta de Santo António adds substance rather than brochure gloss: this is not a speculative campus on a business park, but a school with a **sense of permanence**, **earned history** and a **clear cultural footing** in Portugal as well as in the British system.

For parents, the shortlist case is straightforward. St. Julian’s offers the reach of a British curriculum school with the added weight of IB World School status, serving ages 3–18 in a day-school format. That gives it appeal for internationally mobile families who want academic continuity, and for Lisbon-area families who want strong English without cutting children off from Portuguese language and context. The school’s market position rests on credibility rather than novelty: **3–18** through-school structure, British curriculum, bilingual delivery, and accreditations that international parents recognise. The trade-off is equally clear. This is not a niche progressive school, not a full-immersion local Portuguese school, and not a boarding environment. Families seeking one of those models need to look elsewhere.

The student who will thrive here is academically serious, internationally minded and comfortable moving between languages and cultures. St. Julian’s suits children who benefit from structure, continuity and a broad peer group rather than a small alternative setting. It also fits families who want a school with *institutional memory*, *cosmopolitan habits* and a *measured, adult atmosphere* rather than performative innovation. Its recent university destinations include Bath, City and Cambridge, and its documented alumni footprint carries genuine cultural weight, including **12** notable alumni catalogued in Wikidata. In a crowded Lisbon-area market, St. Julian’s stands out for one reason above all: it offers *substance over fashion*.

STRENGTHS

- Founded in 1932, it is the oldest and largest British international school in Portugal, with roughly 1,200-1,250 pupils across more than 60 nationalities.
- The school was the first in Portugal authorised to offer International Baccalaureate examinations, and is accredited by CIS, COBIS and NEASC.
- It has been ranked in the European Top 10 and is the only Portuguese school in the global Top 100 of the Spear's Schools Index.
- A bilingual pathway lets pupils follow the Portuguese National Curriculum in English and Portuguese before joining the IB, easing integration for locally-settled families.
- Set in an 18th-century palace estate near Carcavelos beach, the campus includes extensive grounds and outdoor sports facilities backed by a stated 50 million euro capital project.

TRADE-OFFS

- Admissions carry meaningful one-off costs beyond tuition, including a 250 euro application fee, 750 euro registration fee and a 5,000 euro non-refundable capital levy.
- Day fees alone have historically ranged from roughly 8,200 euros to over 19,000 euros a year depending on year group, before these extra levies.
- Average IBDP scores sit around 35, respectable but not among the very highest results posted by elite international schools.
- The school is a day school only, so families wanting a boarding option for senior years must look elsewhere, and a handful of leavers do transfer to UK boarding schools at sixth form.

ADMISSIONS

Entry points run from Nursery (age 3) through Year 13, via either the English National Curriculum pathway or a Bilingual Portuguese/English pathway. The process involves school reports, interviews and age-appropriate assessments, including CAT4 testing, with admissions officers screening primarily for likely academic fit rather than raw selectivity. An application fee of 250 euros is payable at submission, a 750 euro registration fee on acceptance, plus a one-off 5,000 euro capital levy. Portuguese language study is compulsory to Year 9 on both pathways.

NOTABLE ALUMNI (12)

MUSIC: Mia Rose, April Ivy, Ana Free

DRAMA: Daniela Ruah, Mia Rose, Paolo Marinou-Blanco

VISUAL_ARTS: Paula Rego, Mia Rose

LETTERS: Pedro Pinto

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_5700135279.