

Marlborough School (LA)

Los Angeles, United States



Since 1889, this Hancock Park all-girls campus has paired a nationally recognized debate program with a first-of-its-kind Global Futures diploma.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	77/100
Academic outcomes	80/100
University placement	78/100
Prestige & heritage	76/100
Alumni network	75/100
Facilities	76/100
Transparency	75/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

The case for Marlborough starts with focus. This is an all-girls day school in Hancock Park for ages 12 to 18, operating on an American curriculum, with a strikingly low **7:1** student-teacher ratio and accreditation from NEASC and NAIS. That puts it in the small-group, high-attention end of the Los Angeles independent market, and the fee level confirms the point: an average of **\$57,850** a year across the full ladder. Parents are not buying scale or mass-market polish here; they are buying intensity, access to adults and a school that has spent well over a century refining a very specific proposition for ambitious girls.

What sets Marlborough apart is not a vague promise of empowerment but a clear institutional lane. The school’s own public language is heavy on leadership, girls’ education and preparing students for what comes next, and that fits the editorial picture in the tagline: a nationally recognised debate programme and a first-of-its-kind Global Futures diploma. That combination matters. Debate signals verbal confidence, intellectual competition and a culture that rewards argument done well. A Global Futures diploma points to a school trying to add structured, outward-facing work on the big questions beyond standard US college-prep routines. That is **more distinctive than another generic “innovation” pitch**, and it gives Marlborough a sharper identity than many expensive urban independents.

The school will suit a student who wants a **serious academic environment** without the social sprawl of a huge co-ed campus. Girls who like discussion, writing, public speaking and close teacher contact will have more room to thrive here than students who want anonymity or a loose, low-pressure culture. The same concentration will not suit everyone. A school with this profile, this ratio and this fee level asks for commitment; it is **not a place for passengers**. For parents building a shortlist in Los Angeles, Marlborough earns its place because it offers a **clear, disciplined proposition**: all-girls education, established institutional confidence, strong adult attention, and programmes with enough definition to stand out in a crowded premium market.

STRENGTHS

- Marlborough is the oldest independent girls' school in Southern California, tracing its origins to 1889.
- The school maintains a low student-teacher ratio is 7:1, allowing for close academic attention.
- Financial support is meaningful: Financial aid awards are based on a formula that determines calculated financial need and awards can range from 5-100%.
- Co-curricular breadth extends beyond traditional academics into areas such as futures thinking in our Global Futures Institute, innovating in the Shari and Edward Glazer Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation.
- The school draws a genuinely citywide intake, with students coming from neighborhoods across the city - including Mid-city, Pasadena, the Valley, Pacific Palisades, and the South Bay.

TRADE-OFFS

- Marlborough is a single-sex institution -- Private, All-Girls, 7-12 -- which will not suit families seeking a coeducational environment.
- Tuition is steep: for the 2026-2027 school year, Marlborough's tuition is \$57,850. There is also a New Student Fee of \$3,300, before books, uniforms, trips or transport.
- Admission for financial-aid applicants is notably competitive, since students who apply for financial aid are placed into a more competitive admissions pool.
- The school covers only secondary years -- an independent college-preparatory secondary school for girls in grades 7 through 12 -- with no lower school or boarding option, so families with younger children or relocating from abroad without a boarding alternative must plan separately.

ADMISSIONS

Marlborough enrolls girls in grades 7 through 12 at a single Hancock Park campus, with no lower school or boarding option. The application fee is \$150, and families who need financial help can request a fee waiver. Financial aid is formula-based, ranging from 5% to 100% of costs, but aid applicants are placed into a more competitive admissions pool since not every admissible student who requests aid can be funded. Prospective families are encouraged to inquire early, attend an Open House or Parent Coffee, and engage with the admissions office directly, as deadlines fall early in the calendar year.

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_cd6509f2c8.