

The Latymer School

London, United Kingdom



A 400-year-old state grammar in Edmonton where over 1,000 applicants compete yearly for just 192 places, with Cambridge college endowments still funding leavers.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	69/100
Academic outcomes	83/100
University placement	78/100
Prestige & heritage	76/100
Alumni network	10/100
Facilities	69/100
Transparency	73/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

At The Latymer School, the first figure that matters is demand: over ****1,000 applicants**** chase ****192 places**** each year. That sets the tone. This is a state grammar in Edmonton with a **hard-edged academic market position** and none of the fee barrier of London’s independent sector. Founded in 1624 and re-opened on its Haselbury Road site as a co-educational grammar school in 1910, it carries unusual institutional depth without trading on heritage as decoration. The school is voluntary aided, selective, day-only, and non-religious; the core offer is straightforward British secondary education for pupils aged

11 to 18, taught in English, with average class sizes of 26.

What puts Latymer on a serious parent’s shortlist is not mystique but output. In the Class of 2024, 210 pupils left; **88%** went to top-100 universities, 11 secured Oxbridge places, 42 went to Russell Group universities, and the most common destinations included Cambridge, Oxford and UCL. That is *properly strong sixth-form conversion* from a state school. The old foundation still has practical force too: Cambridge college endowments continue to fund leavers, a rare thread connecting the school’s 17th-century origins to present-day pupil benefit. This is not a school that needs to borrow prestige from glossy branding; it has a *long, provable record*.

The pupil who thrives here wants pace, competition and intellectual density. Selective entry, classes of 26 and a large, ambitious sixth-form destination profile make this a place for students who are *self-propelled*, resilient and happy among other high-attaining children. It suits families who want serious academic traction without independent-school fees, and who do not need a cossetting atmosphere or a boutique scale. Latymer also carries a wider cultural footprint than many state grammars: Wikidata records 47 notable alumni across politics, science, writing, acting, music and the visual arts, including one top-tier drama award winner. For the right child, that mix of *fierce selectivity*, academic credibility and public-school access is compelling. For a child who needs constant hand-holding or a softer tempo, it is the wrong school.

STRENGTHS

- A voluntary aided, selective, co-educational grammar school in Edmonton that is state-funded, so families pay no tuition fees despite consistently strong results.
- Strong university progression: in 2024, 88% of leavers went to top-100 universities, including 11 to Oxbridge.
- Holds an Outstanding rating from OFSTED, the regulator's highest grade.
- The 2024 A-level cohort achieved 40% A* and 33% A grades, evidence of high academic performance for a non-fee-paying school.
- World-class music provision (co-curricular score 9.0), with places reserved each year for pupils of exceptional musical talent.

TRADE - OFFS

- One of the most heavily oversubscribed grammar schools in the country, with over 1,000 applicants competing for 192 Year 7 places, making entry highly uncertain even for strong candidates.
- Admission is restricted to children living inside a defined Inner Area of postcodes, so a high entrance-test score alone does not guarantee a place if the family's address falls outside this zone.
- Sixth-form entrants must achieve at least six grade 7s (or equivalent) at GCSE, plus grade 7 in subjects they wish to study at A Level, a demanding bar for external joiners.
- As a selective grammar school, the intake and culture differ markedly from comprehensive schools nearby, which families uncomfortable with an intensely exam-focused, academically homogenous cohort should weigh carefully.

ADMISSIONS

The Latymer School is a state-funded, voluntary aided grammar school, so there are no tuition fees. Main entry is at age 11 via the school's own competitive test covering verbal reasoning, maths and English; well over 1,000 children apply annually for 192 places. Crucially, only applicants resident within a defined 'Inner Area' of North and East London postcodes can be offered a place, regardless of test score, so relocating families must check their address against the published catchment list before applying. Sixth-form entry requires at least six GCSEs at grade 7 or above, with subject-specific grade requirements for A Level choices.

NOTABLE ALUMNI (47)

SPORT: Timothy Shuttleworth

MUSIC: Ivana Gavrić, Michael Oliva, Grace Chatto, Q350362, B.J. Wilson, Bruce Forsyth, Ken Sykora, Aubrey Woods

DRAMA: John Prebble, Vivian Oparah, Dex Lee, Miriam-Teak Lee, Jasmine Blackborow, Eileen Atkins, Evelyn Ankers, Clare-Hope Ashitey

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WTS RATING 

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