

The Judd School

Tonbridge, United Kingdom



A boys' grammar with a co-educational sixth form, where music and mathematics specialisms sharpen a steady flow of leavers into Oxbridge

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	78/100
Academic outcomes	83/100
University placement	79/100
Prestige & heritage	77/100
Alumni network	76/100
Facilities	70/100
Transparency	74/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

The Judd School sits in the top tier of English state selective education: a boys’ grammar in the main school, with a co-educational sixth form, and a long-established route into Oxbridge. Founded in 1888, it carries the institutional confidence of an old grammar without the theatrical self-mythology that clings to some of its peers. The shape is clear. This is a day school for academically ambitious pupils aged 11 to 18, taught in English, with a **13:1** student-teacher ratio and average class sizes of **26**. The specialisms in music and mathematics matter because they sharpen the school’s identity beyond raw selectivity. This is not just a place for bright boys who test well at 11; it is a place for pupils who want intellectual pace, disciplined habits and *serious academic company*.

What puts Judd on a shortlist is the combination of grammar-school selectivity, sixth-form breadth and a culture that channels high performers towards demanding university destinations. The co-educational sixth form changes the texture of the school at the point that matters most for university preparation: it broadens the social mix and pulls the school away from the narrower habits of an all-boys environment. Parents looking at expensive independent schools in the South East should pay attention here, because Judd offers a **hard-edged academic education** without fees. It also has unusual historical ballast: founded by the Worshipful Company of Skinners, with the Skinners' Company still forming the majority of the governing body, the school has **deep institutional roots** and a governance structure tied to long-standing civic patronage rather than fashion.

The right student for Judd is bright, resilient and unbothered by competition. He will want a school where academic standards are explicit and where being clever carries social currency rather than apology. In the sixth form, girls and boys who want **an exacting sixth-form culture** and a strong peer group for university entry will find the same appeal. This is not the right fit for a child who needs constant hand-holding, a broad pastoral cushion or a school built around sporting spectacle and glossy facilities. It suits the pupil who enjoys mathematics for its precision, music for its rigour, and school life that feels **purposeful rather than performative**. For families who want a state school with **intellectual seriousness** and a proven route to elite higher education, Judd warrants close attention.

STRENGTHS

- State-funded voluntary-aided grammar school, so there are no tuition fees despite an academically selective, high-attainment model, unusual among top-ranked UK day schools.
- Ofsted rated the school Outstanding.
- Elite music and sport provision by our co-curricular scoring, with a strong instrumental tradition and a serious competitive sporting record.
- Structured co-curricular programmes including the Combined Cadet Force and Duke of Edinburgh give breadth beyond the core academic timetable.
- Sixth form is co-educational, with girls joining as external entrants, giving older pupils a mixed social environment despite the boys-only main school.

TRADE - OFFS

- Single-sex for ages 11-16; boys form the entire main school population, with girls admitted only into the sixth form.
- Entry is highly selective via the Kent Test (11+), with roughly five applications for every available Year 7 place in recent admissions rounds.
- Admission is heavily weighted toward residence in a defined Inner or Outer catchment area, which can disadvantage relocating families without a qualifying local address.
- As a state day grammar school it offers no boarding provision, so families living any distance away must manage a daily commute.

ADMISSIONS

Main entry is at Year 7 via the Kent Test (PESE), administered by Kent County Council; boys register in the summer term of Year 5 and sit the test in September of Year 6, with results released in October and offers in March. Places are allocated by rank order of test score, split between a larger Inner Area allocation and a smaller Outer Area quota, with looked-after children and Pupil Premium pupils prioritised and distance used only as a tie-breaker. A limited number of sixth-form places, including for girls, are also available. Competition is significant, with around five applicants per place in recent admissions rounds.

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_1bc3a69f2b.