

Oxford High School

Oxford, United Kingdom



One of England's earliest girls' day schools, founded in 1875, pairs Oxford scholarship with a culture of fearless inquiry.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	65/100
Academic outcomes	78/100
University placement	75/100
Prestige & heritage	74/100
Alumni network	0/100
Facilities	72/100
Transparency	71/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Oxford High trades on something more substantial than old-school gloss: it sits in Oxford, has been educating girls since 1875, and still runs as an academically forceful 11-18 school with a clear appetite for intellectual independence. The school’s own language leans hard into “bold”, “curious” and “fearless”; strip away the branding and the underlying proposition holds. This is a girls’ school for students who want to question, argue, test ideas and work at pace. The academic numbers are strong and concrete: ****89%**** of A-level grades at A*-B and ****94%**** of GCSE grades at 9-7. Recent university destinations reinforce that picture. In the 2024 cohort of 100 leavers, ****86%**** went to top-100 universities, with 16 to Oxbridge and 32 to Russell Group institutions. That is not vague prestige. It is a direct indicator of where the

school's academic culture leads.

Its market position is clear. Oxford High sits in the top tier of UK girls' day schools, with an average annual day fee of **£21,330** across the full 11-18 ladder. The listed boarding average of **£55,000** a year places boarding in expensive territory, and parents should interrogate exactly how boarding works in practice, because the public-facing profile is much stronger on the day-school identity than on residential life. The school carries ISI and HMC accreditation, which matters less as a badge than as confirmation that this is an established independent-school operator with national standing. It also has the advantage of being part of GDST, a group with a long record in girls' education, while still benefiting from a location that feeds directly into the academic life of Oxford itself.

What is special here is the combination of *serious academic intent* and an explicit refusal to sand down personality. Many academically selective schools talk about confidence; Oxford High puts more weight on *fearless inquiry*, leadership and intellectual self-possession. That will suit girls who are bright, articulate, self-driven and happy in an environment that rewards initiative rather than passive compliance. It will not suit every child. A student who wants a softer, less pressurised culture, co-education, or a school built around pastoral cosiness before academic stretch may find a better fit elsewhere. Oxford High belongs on a shortlist for families who want a *fiercely academic* girls' school with strong outcomes, credible university placement and a culture that backs girls who want to think for themselves rather than simply perform well in tests.

STRENGTHS

- The Independent Schools Inspectorate rated the school Excellent, ISI's highest outcome.
- Results are strong and openly published: in 2024, 38% of A-Level grades were A* and 86% of leavers progressed to top-ranked universities; the school also reports 89% of A-Levels at A*-B and 94% of GCSEs at 9-7.
- A consistent Oxbridge record, with recent destinations including Oxford, Cambridge, UCL, Imperial College London, Durham and Bristol.
- Music is world-class by our co-curricular banding, with sports, drama and visual arts all elite and dance very strong, backed by facilities including a swimming pool, sports hall, auditorium and drama and music studios.
- A vibrant extracurricular programme with more than 100 clubs and activities.

TRADE-OFFS

- It is a day school with no boarding provision, so relocating or overseas families must arrange local housing and pastoral care themselves.
- It is single-sex throughout, admitting only girls, which rules it out for families wanting co-education or a school for sons.
- Entry is competitive and exam-based, so a place is not guaranteed for local applicants.
- Day fees of £30,000 a year are a material outlay, particularly for relocating families who must also fund local housing.
- The school offers A-Levels rather than the IB, which will not suit pupils who prefer a broader sixth-form curriculum.

ADMISSIONS

Main entry is Year 7 (11+), with roughly 45-50 places available each year alongside internal Prep School transfers. Candidates sit school-set English, Maths and a Cognitive Abilities Test, followed by an interview with the Head or a senior staff member. Registration for Year 7 typically closes in the autumn of the preceding year, and a non-refundable registration fee applies (higher for overseas applicants). Sixth Form entry is also available via a dedicated assessment and interview day. Academic, art, drama, music and sport scholarships are awarded on the results of the standard entrance process, with no separate scholarship exam.

WTS RATING 

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