

Hurstpierpoint College

Hurstpierpoint, West Sussex, United Kingdom



On a 140-acre Gothic Revival campus below the South Downs, a Shakespeare society older than the RSC still takes the stage every year

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	60/100
Academic outcomes	67/100
University placement	66/100
Prestige & heritage	69/100
Alumni network	12/100
Facilities	71/100
Transparency	61/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

A **140-acre** Gothic Revival campus below the South Downs gives Hurstpierpoint College a scale and sense of place that many rivals cannot match, but the sharper point is structural: this is a single school that carries children from age **4-18** across Junior Prep, Senior Prep, Senior School and Sixth Form. That matters for parents who want continuity without the conveyor-belt feel of a huge urban foundation. Hurst is Anglican, co-educational, day and boarding, with flexi and weekly boarding alongside full boarding; that mix widens its catchment and makes it more adaptable than the old-model full-boarding public school. It also has practical reach: transport runs across Sussex, Surrey and Kent, plus a chaperoned weekly return train from Clapham Junction. This is a school built for families who want

countryside scale without cutting ties to London.

What is special here is not novelty but **range with coherence**. Hurst offers a British education in English, is accredited by ISI and HMC, and states plainly that academic excellence sits at the centre of the proposition. Many schools say that. The difference at Hurst is that the set-up supports a broad version of school life: a large campus, boarding in several forms, chapel and community baked into the structure, and enough organisational heft to serve local day pupils and boarders from further afield in one system. The old Shakespeare society matters for the same reason as the campus: it signals institutional memory and a school that values performance, tradition and participation, not just exam throughput. Parents who want published league-table chest-beating will find the picture **more opaque than ideal**; the school does not publish aggregate public exam outcomes here. Parents who value an established, full-spectrum independent school with **serious extracurricular depth** will still put Hurst on a shortlist.

In market terms, Hurst sits in the expensive end of the UK independent sector without pushing into the stratosphere of the most inflated London boarding brands. The average annual day fee across the full age range is ***£24,669***; the average annual boarding fee is ***£47,595***. That places it in the bracket where parents expect breadth, facilities, transport and boarding flexibility, not bare-bones academics. The child who will want Hurst is not the ultra-niche specialist who wants a tiny hothouse or an aggressively metropolitan school. Hurst suits pupils who will use space, sport, drama, boarding options and the long runway from prep to sixth form; children who thrive in a **big-hearted, tradition-minded** environment with clear expectations, but who still want room to move between day and boarding life. It is **not for families seeking minimalism**. It is for families who want the full independent-school apparatus, on a grand campus, with enough scale to give a pupil several ways to belong.

STRENGTHS	TRADE - OFFS
• Full-through co-educational school from prep to sixth form on one site. • Day, flexi, weekly and full boarding options available. • World-class sport, particularly hockey, rugby and cricket. • Strong published 2025 results: 79% of GCSE grades at 7-9 and over 88% of A-level grades at A*-B. • Extensive transport across Sussex, Surrey and Kent plus a chaperoned weekly train from Clapham Junction. • Inspection rating of Excellent (ISI) and HMC membership.	• Anglican Woodard foundation may not suit non-faith families. • British curriculum only; no IB offered. • Rural West Sussex setting, not an urban campus.

ADMISSIONS

Hurst takes pupils from 4 to 18, with clear entry bands across its Junior Prep, Senior Prep, Senior School and Sixth Form. In practice, admissions are structured around those phase changes rather than a single intake point. It offers day, flexi, weekly and full boarding, so applicants should expect separate practical considerations for boarding entry. The school is in the West Sussex countryside between Haywards Heath and Brighton, with transport links across Sussex, Surrey and Kent and a chaperoned weekly train service from Clapham Junction.

Specific admissions deadlines, assessment formats and interview arrangements are best confirmed directly with the school, as is any bursary or financial-aid provision, since scale and eligibility should not be assumed without confirmation. One distinctive feature is the breadth of boarding options: not just full boarding but weekly and flexi arrangements that may widen access for local and London-based families. The school publishes its examination results openly, so prospective parents can review current outcomes when weighing the academic case.

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_2e720ae22e.