

Lycée Condorcet

Paris, France



Housed in a former Capuchin cloister near Saint-Lazare, this boarding-free lycee still funnels day students into France's elite prep classes.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	63/100
Academic outcomes	77/100
University placement	74/100
Prestige & heritage	70/100
Alumni network	10/100
Facilities	65/100
Transparency	60/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Lycée Condorcet occupies a distinctive place in the Paris market because it is not trying to be many things at once. This is a historic, non-religious day lycée in the **9th arrondissement**, founded in **1803**, and focused squarely on the French Baccalaureate in French. For families who want immersion in the French state academic tradition rather than an international-school hybrid, that clarity matters. Its appeal is partly institutional age and partly location: one of the four oldest high schools in Paris, at 8 rue du Havre, with the cultural weight that comes from two centuries of intellectual life. That gives it a certain *serious academic atmosphere* and *old-Paris gravitas* that newer schools cannot replicate.

What is special here is less about facilities or broad curricular choice — neither is the point in the material available — and more about pedigree, continuity and the kind of student body such a school tends to attract. Lycée Condorcet has educated figures including Marcel Proust, Paul Verlaine, Francis Poulenc, Claude Lévi-Strauss and Henri Bergson; that does not guarantee anything for current pupils, but it does signal a long association with French intellectual and cultural life. In market terms, it sits as a *high-prestige local lycée* rather than a globally packaged international brand. Parents should shortlist it if they value *deep French academic immersion*, a central Paris setting, and a school identity shaped by scholarship rather than marketing language.

The right student for Lycée Condorcet is likely to be academically capable, comfortable working in French, and motivated by a traditional lycée environment. This is for teenagers who do not need hand-holding or an overtly pastoral sales pitch, and who may thrive on *institutional seriousness* and *high cultural expectations*. It is less obviously suited to families seeking multiple curriculum pathways, bilingual delivery, or a deliberately internationalised school culture. In short: if you want a Paris lycée with history, intellectual cachet and a clear French Baccalaureate focus for ages **15-18**, Lycée Condorcet earns its place on a serious shortlist.

STRENGTHS

- Founded in 1803, it is one of the four oldest secondary schools in Paris and carries a long-standing academic reputation.
- Alumni include figures such as Henri Bergson, Claude Levi-Strauss, Marcel Proust, Francis Poulenc and Paul Verlaine.
- As a French state lycee it charges no tuition fees, giving families access to a historic Parisian institution without private-school costs.
- Recent baccalaureat results were strong, with 99% of the 2025 cohort passing and 87% obtaining a mention.
- Houses selective post-bac classes preparatoires (hypokhagne/khagne and Maths Sup/Spe tracks) preparing students for entry to France's grandes ecoles.

TRADE - OFFS

- No international or bilingual section is listed for the school, so instruction is entirely in French with no dedicated track for non-French-speaking arrivals.
- The lycee has never operated as a boarding school, so out-of-area or relocating families must arrange their own local housing and daily logistics.
- Entry to the general lycee is governed by the standard French catchment-area (carte scolaire) system, which can limit access for families moving into Paris from outside the zone.
- The post-bac preparatory classes are described as 'very selective' on Parcoursup, meaning places are competitive and dossier-based rather than guaranteed.

ADMISSIONS

Entry to the general lycee (seconde through terminale) normally follows Paris's residential catchment-area rules, so families must reside within the assigned zone or seek an exception. The school's classes preparatoires (CPGE) recruit separately and nationally via Parcoursup on academic dossier; listings describe these tracks as 'tres selective' with limited places (around 48-96 per class). No dedicated international or bilingual admissions pathway is documented, so fluency in French is effectively required at entry.

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_3c8a6857b3.