

Badminton School

Bristol, United Kingdom



On a Bristol campus where girls have played cricket since 1858, science labs for women followed decades ahead of the curve

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	62/100
Academic outcomes	73/100
University placement	71/100
Prestige & heritage	72/100
Alumni network	1/100
Facilities	72/100
Transparency	66/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Girls have played cricket here since 1858, and that matters because Badminton still carries the stamp of a school that gave serious intellectual and physical space to girls early, and has kept doing it without fuss. This is an Anglican boarding school in Bristol for ages 11 to 18, teaching a British curriculum in English, and its public face is strikingly broad: classics, philosophy, religion and ethics, history of art, computer science, psychology, business and economics, plus a full boarding structure with named houses and a separate sixth form centre. That breadth is the point. Badminton is not a narrow hot-house built around a single result metric; it is a **properly academic girls’ school** with enough range to suit students who want strong sciences without surrendering languages, arts or humanities. ISI and HMC membership place it

firmly inside the established independent-school mainstream, but the older story here is sharper than the badge collection: this is a school with a long record of taking girls’ education seriously before that became standard.

The university outcomes are strong and concrete. In the Class of 2024, from **85 leavers**, **82%** went to top-100 universities, with **9 Oxbridge** places and 32 Russell Group destinations; Oxford took 5 and Cambridge 4, while Bristol took 10. That tells you two things. First, Badminton delivers for the girl aiming at selective UK admissions. Second, it does not operate as a one-note Oxbridge factory; the Bristol figure points to a school that also serves students making sensible high-grade choices close to home or in disciplines where fit matters more than prestige theatre. Fees put it in the serious-buying category rather than the stratospheric one: an average annual day fee of **£13,395** and an average annual boarding fee of **£38,176** across the full ladder it covers. For a UK boarding school, that boarding figure reads as *competitive rather than grandiose*.

Who will want it? A girl who likes structure, substance and the company of other bright girls; a student who wants boarding without a faux-glamour finish; a sixth former who values subject choice and academic enrichment over branding noise. Badminton belongs on a shortlist because it offers a *clear, durable proposition*: historic girls’ education, real boarding, credible top-university outcomes and a curriculum broad enough to keep able students alive to multiple futures. The caveat is plain. Families hunting for a co-ed environment, a progressive educational experiment or a school built around flash facilities and constant self-advertisement will find stronger fits elsewhere. Badminton suits the student who is *intellectually serious*, steady under expectations and happy in a school that values depth over performance.

STRENGTHS

- A private boarding and day school for girls that consistently performs well at A-Level, with 64% of 2024 grades at A*/A.
- In 2024, 82% of leavers progressed to top-tier universities, including nine Oxbridge places split between Oxford and Cambridge.
- World-class provision in music (9.3) and drama (9.0), plus elite sport (8.8) and visual arts (8.5) on our co-curricular scoring.
- A 10:1 student-teacher ratio and average class size of 18 support close individual attention.
- Notable alumnae include novelist Dame Iris Murdoch and former Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

TRADE - OFFS

- The school is single-sex (girls only), so it is not an option for families wanting a co-educational environment or with sons to place alongside daughters.
- At £30,000 day and £55,000 boarding a year, the school sits firmly in the premium fee bracket.
- It is a comparatively small school, which may mean a narrower range of subject sets and sports fixtures than at larger boarding rivals.
- Bristol lies outside the traditional Home Counties boarding belt, a logistical factor for families based overseas or in London.
- Dance provision (6.5) is only strong, behind the school's world-class music and drama.

ADMISSIONS

Entry points are the Prep department, Year 7 (11+) and Year 8 (12+), Year 9 (13+) and Year 10 (14+), and Sixth Form (16+). Senior entry typically involves cognitive ability testing, subject papers and interview; overseas candidates sit assessments at designated international test centres before a video interview. Scholarships (academic, art, music, drama, sport and all-rounder) carrying fee remission are available at the main entry points, alongside means-tested bursaries for UK candidates.

NOTABLE ALUMNI (11)

DRAMA: Rosamund Pike, Phyllida Law

VISUAL_ARTS: Marjorie Frances Bruford

LETTERS: Indira Gandhi, Iris Murdoch, Polly Toynbee, Helen Nicoll, Gioietta Kuo

POLITICS: Indira Gandhi

SCIENCE: Iris Murdoch, Gioietta Kuo

WTS RATING 

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