

Concord College

Shrewsbury, United Kingdom



Amid the ruins of a Shropshire castle estate, a fiercely academic sixth form channels 40 nationalities toward STEM and Oxbridge.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	78/100
Academic outcomes	81/100
University placement	78/100
Prestige & heritage	76/100
Alumni network	75/100
Facilities	78/100
Transparency	74/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Set in **73** acres of Shropshire countryside, with the remnants of a castle estate framing daily life, Concord College has built a very specific niche: a **fiercely academic** British school for pupils aged 13 to 19, with boarding at its core and an international intake running to 40 nationalities. This is not a soft-edged country boarding school trading on charm and tradition. It is a disciplined, exam-driven operation with small classes of **12** and a clear sixth-form emphasis. The school's own public presentation gives heavy weight to results, Cambridge and Oxford preparation, university destinations and a "super-curriculum". That tells you where the centre of gravity sits. Families looking for broad pastoral rhetoric first, and academic pressure second, will find other schools more congenial.

Its market position is clear. Concord sits in the top tier of academically ambitious UK boarding schools, but outside the ancient public-school brand circus. That matters. For parents who care more about output than social cachet, Concord offers a *hard-edged academic culture* without the inherited theatrics of some better-known names. The fee level underlines the point: boarding averages **£66,000** a year across the full age range, with day fees averaging **£24,300**. That is expensive, but not irrational in this market for a specialist boarding school with a strong international draw. The school is non-religious, teaches in English, follows a British curriculum, and holds ISI accreditation. The day/boarding split also widens the catchment: local families can access the academic engine without paying for full boarding.

The right student for Concord is easy to identify. This school suits bright, self-motivated adolescents who want to work hard, live among equally serious peers and aim high in STEM-heavy or other academically competitive routes. It will also suit internationally mobile families who want a British pathway without a church foundation or a tribal old-boy culture. It is *not for the faint-hearted*, and that is part of the attraction. Children who need a slower pace, a looser institutional grip or a school built around sport, social polish or pastoral cushioning will not get the best from it. Concord belongs on a shortlist because it knows exactly what it is: a *results-focused*, *unusually cosmopolitan* boarding school with a sixth-form brain.

STRENGTHS

- Consistently strong public-exam results: WSA reports more than 80% of students achieving a B or above at GCSE and A Level, and the school publishes headline figures including 45 students gaining three A*s at A level in 2025.
- A genuinely international community: WSA describes an almost entirely international student body drawn from around the world, supported by EAL provision.
- Purpose-built academic facilities, most notably a science block, on a rural campus, with an average class size of around 12.
- Strong university progression, with the school reporting 12 Oxford and Cambridge places in 2025 and more than 150 students entering medicine, dentistry or veterinary science over five years.
- Broad co-curricular provision — sport, drama and music all rate at an elite level in our assessment — giving academically driven students genuine outlets beyond the timetable.

TRADE-OFFS

- Entry is highly selective and the school is oversubscribed, built around past academic performance and entrance testing rather than a broad intake.
- Boarding fees place it among the costlier British boarding options; parents should confirm current figures directly, as published fee data varies by source.
- The campus sits in rural Shropshire, some distance from a major city, which can limit easy access to wider urban amenities and transport links.
- The social texture is workmanlike and exam-led rather than clubbable, and families wanting a tradition-heavy, socially networked public-school culture may find it too focused.

ADMISSIONS

Students typically join in Form 3 (age 13), Form 4 (age 14) or Sixth Form (age 16–17). Applications are made online with school reports and certificates submitted, followed by Concord's own entrance tests and, for Sixth Form, subject-specific tests; interviews follow once tests are marked. The College describes itself as academically selective and oversubscribed, weighing past performance, potential and fit with its exam-focused culture. Boarding applications should be submitted the September before the intended year of entry, with a registration fee payable on application.

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_705aa60ae7.