

Taunton School

Taunton, United Kingdom



On Somerset's edge, ties to county cricket and pro rugby clubs turn school sport into a genuine elite-performance pathway.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	57/100
Academic outcomes	66/100
University placement	64/100
Prestige & heritage	68/100
Alumni network	1/100
Facilities	69/100
Transparency	60/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Taunton’s most interesting advantage sits outside the classroom: its sporting links give ambitious players a route that many provincial independents cannot match. The school’s own line about county cricket and professional rugby is the substance here, not decoration. For the right child, that makes Taunton more than a pleasant Somerset boarding school; it makes it a **serious performance environment**. This is a co-educational day and boarding school in Taunton, founded in 1847, teaching in English and running right through from age 3 to 18 on a British curriculum. That through-school structure matters. Families can start early, avoid the usual 11+ or 13+ disruption, and keep one school culture all the way to sixth form.

The school also has scale and continuity on its side. Taunton states that it offers progression from Nursery through to Sixth Form, and that **96%** of students go on to university. That is a useful destination marker, even if the school does not publish a fuller public breakdown here of which universities, courses or subject pathways dominate. It holds ISI and HMC status, which places it firmly inside the established independent-school market rather than the newer, branding-heavy end of the sector. Fees sit in the upper middle of that market: an average annual day fee of **£28,000** across the full age range, and an average annual boarding fee of **£47,000**. Those are substantial sums, but not absurd by current UK boarding-school standards.

Why put it on a shortlist? Because Taunton offers a *credible all-round proposition* with one unusually clear point of distinction: sport is not an add-on. A child who wants broad British schooling with boarding available, values continuity from prep into sixth form, and has genuine sporting ambition will find a *sharper pathway* here than at many schools of similar size and setting. The best fit is not hard to identify. Taunton suits students who want a traditional independent-school framework without a religious basis, who can use a campus with breadth, and who will thrive in a school that mixes university preparation with *high-performance sport*. Families hunting for published granular academic data will want more detail than the school currently puts into the public domain. Families prioritising athletic development alongside a full school education will keep Taunton high on the list.

STRENGTHS

- 56-acre estate gives substantial outdoor and sporting space
- Boarding (full, weekly and flexi) and day options widen family flexibility
- All-through school from Nursery to Sixth Form on one campus
- Multiple sixth-form pathways: A-Level, IB Diploma, BTEC and NCUK
- Publishes detailed multi-year GCSE and A-Level/IB/BTEC results
- World-class sport, with facilities including two pools and a climbing wall

TRADE-OFFS

- Large international cohort makes boarding life less recognisably traditional
- English-only instruction may limit non-anglophone families
- Somerset location suits fewer families than major cities
- Premium fee band (WSA cites GBP 9,420-24,735)

ADMISSIONS

Taunton School is a British co-educational day and boarding school in Somerset, all-through for ages 0 to 18. Pupils progress across Nursery, Pre-Prep, Prep, Senior and Sixth Form, so families should expect multiple entry points rather than a single intake. Boarding is available from age 7, in full, weekly and flexi forms, with around 350 pupils boarding. Overseas pupils aged 8 to 18 may enter via Taunton International School on a separate campus and are integrated into the wider community through shared facilities, activities and trips. The language of instruction is English.

The sixth form offers A-Level, the IB Diploma, selected BTEC courses and the NCUK International Foundation Year, including a One-Year GCSE pathway for some pupils. Specific assessment formats, interview structure, application deadlines and bursary or scholarship detail are best confirmed directly with the admissions office, and the school invites families to book visits and open events. Availability for 2025/26 and 2026/27 is listed as undisclosed (WSA).

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_e143b08b19.