Great for art and creativity

Bryanston School

Bryanston's long established reputation for outstanding creativity continues to flourish. Following in the footsteps of world famous alumni such as Lucian Freud, Sir Howard Hodgkin and Sir Terence Conran are many more successful contemporary artists, designers, writers and musicians. Including sculptor Philip Rae-Scott and ceramic artist Tessa Eastman. The art department, looking out over glorious Dorset countryside, stays open late and has first class facilities. Staff get pupils to think big, work independently and develop their own ideas. This approach to learning isn't confined to the arts - Bryanston is committed to "creativity and innovation" across the curriculum and beyond.

bryanston.co.uk
Other contenders: Bedales
King's Bruton

Great for drama

St Edward's, Oxford

This co-ed boarding and day school, affectionately known as Teddies, not only benefits from proximity to Oxford's flourishing cultural life but also has its own professional theatre and arts centre. The North Wall accommodates a busy programme of house, year group and whole school productions, as well as shows by professional companies. All pupils have the chance to act, direct or get busy behind the scenes with lighting and design. The school also sends a production to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe every year. Game of Thrones star Emilia Clarke first trod the boards at Teddies, as did British theatre legend Lord Olivier.

stedwardsoxford.org
Other contenders:
Forest School
Gresham’s

Great for the IB

Sevenoaks School

A total of 213 students took the International Baccalaureate (IB) this summer, with 12 pupils achieving perfect scores of 45 out of 45. More than 53 per cent notched up scores of 40 points or more - an impressive feat. This co-ed Kent school has taught the IB for nearly 40 years and its IB cohort is one of the largest and most successful in the country. Speaking about this year’s results, head Katy Elics said: “These tremendous results are a validation of the school’s ethos and approach to learning. We teach our students how to think.” The school was named as The Sunday Times Independent Secondary School of the Year for 2018.

sevenoakschool.org
Other contenders:
King’s College School, Wimbledon
King Edward’s School, Birmingham

Great for CCF

Christ College, Brecon

The war office granted permission for the first school cadet corps in Wales to be founded at Christ College, Brecon in 1894. Over the subsequent century it was disbanded and re-established several times. Now, joined by a naval section and no longer for boys only, CCF (Combined Cadet Force) is more popular and successful than ever. Brecon is the HQ of the army in Wales and its regimental chapel is in the town’s cathedral so the school is popular with military families. Proximity to the rugged Welsh countryside makes for some pretty grunting training exercises.

christcollegebrecon.com
Other contenders:
Abingdon School
Bedford School