Midlands & East Anglia

BROMSGROVE SCHOOL
Worcester Road, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire B61 7DU
Website bromsgrove-school.co.uk
Head Peter Clague, BA, since 2016, previously Principal of Kristin School, Auckland
Pupils 557. Day: 279 boys, 228 girls; boarding: 253 boys, 202 girls
Ages 3–13 Term Fees Day: £5,695; boarding: £12,740
Oxbridge 1%
Advised: £100 for Admission CE or school's own exam, interview and previous school’s report
Alumni Vice Admiral Ben Key, musician Soweto Kinch, rugby player Ben Foden
PREP Head Jacqui Denul-Rend Pupils 531 day and boarding: 279 boys, 252 girls
Ages 3–13 Term Fees Day: £5,160; boarding: £10,215
Head Peter Clague, a New Zealander who was lured from his role as Principal at one of the largest
schools in Auckland five years ago, describes his students as 'quietly going about the business of
being brilliant'. Originally, he was reluctant to move into the British public school system: his
preconceptions of its traditions and affectations put him off. But he was pleasantly surprised by
Bromsgrove's 960-strong throng. 'We're a school that looks for well-grounded, unpretentious, hard-
working children who immerse themselves in their studies and the extracurricular life of the
school,' he says. Here, any possible airs and graces are usurped by diversity and balance. The school
has nearly 50/50 day pupils to boarders, and close to 50/50 boys and girls. This formula produces
excellent results (GCSE grades were among the highest ever achieved by Bromsgrovians last
year, with 41 per cent achieving A*/A) and formidable sporting prowess (aided by a 25-metre pool,
two Astroturfs and a gym). Thanks to Clague, the arts are also on the up: he's invested £1 million into
performing arts facilities, including a 300-seat theatre. There is a growing focus on pastoral care,
with pupils in the Senior School meeting their tutor on a weekly basis, always in their house, to
discuss whatever they like.
Girls at King Edward VI have introduced a flourishing current affairs breakfast club and a Sherlock club

they build resilience and that sets them up for life.' He is the current Chairman of the National Dyslexic Charity, which would explain why the school's SEN department is one of the best in the UK, with fully qualified staff who are all totally tuned into the complex issues surrounding SEN support. It's no wonder that a new girls' sixth form boarding house is underway to accommodate the ever-growing demand for places.

GRESHAM'S
Cromer Road, Holt,
Norfolk NR25 6EA
Website greshams.com
Head Douglas Robb, MEd, since 2014; previously Headmaster of Oswestry School Pupils 500. Day: 105 boys, 95 girls; boarding: 160 boys, 140 girls Ages 13–18 Term Fees Day: £8,380; boarding: £12,010
Oxbridge 3% Registration By autumn of year before entry; £170 fee. Admission School's own exam, interview, and previous school's report Alumnus Sir James Dyson, Olivia Colman, Benjamin Britten

PREP Head Cathy Brutishware
Pupils 220 day and boarding: 119 boys, 101 girls Ages 7–13 Term Fees Day: £6,210; boarding: £8,700
Set in 200 acres between the coast and countryside of north Norfolk, Gresham's certainly locked out on location. The school explains that there's 'no such thing as a typical Old Greshamian', adding that 'they can be academic or shine in other ways'. One thing that does characterise the students, according to a trusted source, is a 'charmingly understated confidence'.

When asked if there were any drawbacks to Gresham's life, one pupil muses that 'there simply aren't enough hours in the day to do all that is on offer'. It's very easy to see why: the extensive facilities are impressive, including an outward bounds course in the woods that surround the school. A new STEAM (that's science, technology, engineering and maths plus the arts) building is due to open in 2021, with the help of Old Greshamian Sir James Dyson. 'It is a fabulous place,' says Head Douglas Robb, who claims that he can 'tell in two seconds if a child is up or down'. Unsurprisingly, this skill is very popular with parents; one says the Head is 'roundly admired'.

As for results, last year's IB cohort (they're currently the only school in Norfolk offering it) achieved a 100 per cent pass rate with an average point score of 34, ahead of the global average of 30 points. As for A-levels, 60 per cent achieved A—B grades, with 29 per cent securing A—A.

KING EDWARD VI
HIGH SCHOOL
FOR GIRLS
Edgbaston Park Road,
Birmingham B15 2UB
Website kepshs.org.uk
Head Ann Clark, MA, since 2013; previously Deputy Head at Heath Gate Science College, Derbyshire Pupils 602 day girls Ages 11–18 Term Fees £4,296 Oxbridge 20% Registration By September of year before entry; £25 fee. Admission School's own exam; Alumnus Lindsay Duncan, Janet Choudhuri, Pandiyam Susanah Rodgers

Ann Clark is going strong in her sixth year as Head at this selective Birmingham girls' school. She reports that the students are 'enthusiastic, committed, vibrant, free thinking, creative, innovative, mature beyond their years and modest about their not so insignificant achievements'. It would be impossible to refute her final point: 73 per cent of A-level results were A—A and 93 per cent of GCSEs were graded 9–7 (A—A) in 2018. An impressive 20 per cent of last year's leavers secured places at Oxbridge, while 23 per cent of the upper sixth received offers this year. But there's much more to these high fliers than record-breaking results — sport is growing at an impressive rate. KES were the U14 National Badminton winners and U16 National Squash champions, while more unusual options — including the likes of ultimate frisbee and Zumba — continue to thrive. Girls are encouraged to start their