

DOWNE HOUSE

Thatcham
Berkshire

A leading independent boarding school
for girls aged 11–18

Girls Christian

About School

Downe House is a girls' boarding school for 570 pupils aged 11–18 in Thatcham, Berkshire, 534 of them boarders.

It ranked 95th among UK independent schools and 124th= overall in the Sunday Times Parent Power 2026; in 2025, 54% of A level grades were A*/A and 81% of GCSE grades 9–7.

Key facts for parents

Academics

2025: A level 22% A*, 54% A*/A, 83% A*/B; GCSE 81% 9–7 (Sunday Times Parent Power 2026). Average class up to GCSE up to 18 (GSG 2026). Music is outstanding, and languages (French, Chinese and Italian) and the sciences are strong. Classes are 12 at A level (GSG 2026).

Where leavers go

Most leavers go to Russell Group universities such as Bristol, Durham, Exeter, King's College London, Manchester, UCL and Newcastle (GSG 2026).

Recognition

Sunday Times Parent Power 2026 (2025 results): 95th of UK independent schools and 124th= in the combined state and independent table (A level 54% A*/A, GCSE 81% 9–7; A-level rank 166=, GCSE rank 95).

For international families

534 of 570 girls are full boarders, and about a third are international. There are about 3 applicants per place: 55 join at 11 and 45 at 13, through the ISEB Pre-Test and an assessment day (GSG 2026).

Good to know

The 110-acre site has six lacrosse pitches and 17 tennis courts, and the school runs a social partnership with Radley College. About 90% stay on into the Sixth Form (GSG 2026).

Students

570

Total Students

534

Total Boarders

International students: 33%

Fees / term

Day
£34,863

Boarding
£52,875 – 63,228

Per year, 2026/27 (Good Schools Guide); VAT status not stated

Educational Programmes offered

- GCSE / IGCSE
- A Levels

Academic Results

GCSE 2025	9–7		
	81%		
A-LEVEL 2025	A*	A*–A	A*–B
	22%	54%	83%

GCSE bands are grades (9 = top); only bands the school publishes are shown.

School Ranking

#95 UK independent schools (2026) (Sunday Times Parent Power)

#124 State and independent, combined (2026) (Sunday Times Parent Power)

Location

Nearest airport: London Heathrow
About 50 minutes by car from Heathrow (estimate);
London is about 1 hour by train from Newbury.