



# North Bridge House

Nursery, Pre-Preparatory, Preparatory,  
Senior and Sixth Form Schools

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visit this  
autumn



## Nursery and Pre-Preparatory Schools, NW3

19 September  
3, 10 & 31 October  
14 November  
5 December



## Preparatory School, NW1

5 & 20 October  
10 November



## Senior School Hampstead, NW3

26 September  
4 & 31 October  
8 November  
9 December



## Senior & Sixth Form Canonbury, N1

21 & 28 September  
14 October  
1 & 16 November

*Full event details on the website*

Book onto an **Autumn Term open event** today  
[northbridgehouse.com/open](https://northbridgehouse.com/open)

[admissionsenquiries@northbridgehouse.com](mailto:admissionsenquiries@northbridgehouse.com)

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**Saturday 23rd September 2017, 9.00 – 12.00am**

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**Saturday**  
23rd September  
9.30am-1.00pm

## Do you want your child to realise their true potential?

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"The school successfully meets its aim to be a place of learning with a broad and balanced curriculum that enables all pupils to fulfil their potential in everything they undertake." ISI Inspection 2017.

(SatNav for parking CM23 2PQ)

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01279 838604 [admissions@BishopsStortfordCollege.org](mailto:admissions@BishopsStortfordCollege.org)



*Bishop's Stortford College*

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**STAY AND PLAY: FRIDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER**  
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# PREPARING FOR PREP SCHOOL

Making a choice and getting your child ready, by Melonie Clarke

**P**reparatory schools prepare primary school-age children for private secondary school, or even a good state grammar, and most allow children in via an entrance exam and/or interview. They are fee-paying but many offer scholarships and set aside places for children from lower-income families, so it is worth speaking to a prep school even if you think you may not be able to afford the fees - 80 per cent offer part-funded bursaries for families who can only afford a proportion of the fees (average fees are £13,623 a year for day pupils and £30,951 for boarding). There are also scholarships for children with a bent for disciplines such as music, arts, sports or academia.

## The different types

There are several types, which are:

- ◆ Day schools and boarding schools
- ◆ Single-sex or co-educational schools
- ◆ Pre-prep (until the age of 8) or nursery schools
- ◆ Prep schools for children with special educational needs

- ◆ Schools with specialist provision, such as choir, science or music

There are many reasons why people choose prep schools; class sizes tend to be smaller, there are more specialist teachers and the facilities are usually very good. There is also the option to choose a co-ed or single-sex school. Plus, prep schools will test their pupils and their exam results help them get into desired secondary schools, and better equip them for any

*'Many prep schools offer scholarships and set aside places for children from lower-income families'*

entrance exams or interviews.

As the parent, you will know your child's character, so choose a school where they will settle and flourish. It is also wise to see which schools have pupils who have gone on to your shortlisted secondary schools.

Be sure to visit as many schools as possible and try to speak with other parents.

## Helping little one settle in

Some tips to help children prepare:

- ◆ Go past the school, so they know where it is and are familiar with the route. It can also help to let them try on their uniforms before starting.

- ◆ Arrange play dates with other children going to the same school, so your child can get to know them.

- ◆ As you won't be around to help your child at school, try to encourage them to become independent in such things as using the bathroom and washing and drying their hands.

- ◆ Most of the first year will be spent

learning to read and write, so try to make these activities fun at home before they start - read books together and discuss and read books around them, to encourage them to pick up a book themselves.

- ◆ When starting school, children's worries often centre on food and going to the toilet. Find out when break and lunch time, is and ascertain school policy for needing the bathroom when in class. You can explain this to them so they know and won't have to worry.





# SPECIALIST SCHOOLS

James Crawford-Smith explores the option of choosing outside the mainstream for the education for your children

**I**n the UK, there are a wealth of specialist educational institutions. Whether it be maths, sport, IT or drama, there are schools with subject-specific focuses to help encourage your child's talents and preferences. There are also a great number of schools which specialise in the education of children with

in understanding written tasks, helping them with reading, writing and mathematics.

The main benefit in sending your dyslexic child to a specialist school is that these institutions have a focus on allowing your child to learn at their own pace. Not rushing children who may need extra time in processing tasks is hugely

enormously popular and vital in many children's education. Drama, for example, is an area in which some schools make a niche for themselves, having actors, directors and writers come in to teach and offer advice to students wanting to enter the industry.

Sports-centric schools are also extremely prevalent, with the rise in sports academies being established in recent years. Sports schools often have better access to advanced equipment, expertise and facilities. Is your child the next Roger Federer? Or perhaps Eddie 'The Eagle' Edwards - the chances are there's a specialist school that would suit, encourage and support them in fulfilling their potential.

It is important to consider the wants and needs of your child above all else when selecting a specialist school, so discussing the needs of your children with the schools themselves is highly advised.

So, in choosing your child's school looking into a specialist institution may be the best way to help foster and encourage their academic and extracurricular talents and abilities.

*'Not rushing children who may need extra time for tasks is hugely beneficial to confidence and learning'*

learning or physical disabilities.

Dyslexia affects an estimated one in 10 people in the UK, around 6.3 million. The disorder affects the way in which people are able to learn to read and write, with the recognition of numbers and letters in sequence becoming distorted. Institutions have been set up specifically to help teach students with dyslexia. These schools have smaller class sizes, usually with two educational professionals in attendance at each lesson. The student to teacher ratio is around 4:1, hugely beneficial to dyslexia sufferers who may need more time

beneficial to confidence and can help foster a passion for learning.

Before selecting an institution, it is important to see whether or not they are approved by relevant bodies, such as CREStED, that ensure they adhere to the best possible standards of teaching and practices.

Many schools nowadays have focuses, such as maths or sciences, which aim to offer students who show particular promise in these areas opportunities which they may not otherwise have open to them.

Alongside academic institutions, extracurricular-based schools are

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Open Mornings

WEDNESDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017

TUESDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2017

Sixth Form Open Evening

THURSDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017



Mayfield





# EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS

A dedicated community of pupils aged 7 to 18 with a strong continuity of academics and co-curricular activity across both schools.

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email [admissions@cranleigh.org](mailto:admissions@cranleigh.org)  
or [admissions@cranprep.org](mailto:admissions@cranprep.org)



**CRANLEIGH**  
PREPARATORY SCHOOL





# SINGLE SEX VS CO-EDUCATIONAL

Which school is best? James Crawford-Smith investigates

**T**he question of single-sex or co-educational schooling for children has been debated through history, with well-put arguments on both sides. Studies show that boys and girls in certain situations respond differently to different types of learning environments. Do we separate to educate or is early integration the key to a thriving and social generation?

On paper, the benefits of single-sex education are apparent - the results are unquestionably better. Some of the world's best schools are single sex and, paired with single-sex grammar schools, they tend to dominate GCSE and A-level league tables.

One of the more attractive features of single-sex education is inclusivity. No activity, sport, club or lesson is gender-exclusive, so everyone is eligible for everything. In this way, children are free to try and do things without focus on stereotypical gender-specific roles.

The argument that being exposed to the opposite sex can be a distraction is one that has been considered the most important in parents' decision-making. It is

believed that in removing this distraction, all the students' focus would be spent on schooling and extra-curricular activities. We know, however, that this is a flawed argument. For removing the boyfriend/girlfriend element from the classroom does not guarantee more efforts would be spent on scholarly pursuits. A strong argument is made for the opposite, in fact, that removing interaction with the opposite sex breeds a

*'Do we separate to educate or is early integration the key to having a thriving and social generation?'*

dysfunctional and unhealthy relationship with the subject.

Often single-sex institutions foster a sense of family that creates friendships that last well into later life. Co-ed institutions, however, show pupils how to interact with the opposite sex. These schools provide a safe and monitored space to help teach the understanding of relationships between the sexes. It must be said, though, that the idea that single-sex schools breed sexist attitudes is outdated. The pastoral care within single-sex institutions is now seen as a vital part in a student's growth and a school's curriculum.

Diversity is seen by some as an issue in single-sex schools, with students experiencing a culture shock when entering a co-educational institution later in life. This, however, can be eliminated if a single-sex establishment is partnered with one of the opposite gender, as many grammar and public schools now are.

The number of same-sex educational establishments has halved over the last 20 years, with

most single-sex schools now offering mixed sixth forms.

A main reason some parents choose to send their children to single-sex schools is simply that they themselves attended one. Whatever side of the debate you stand on, it is clear there are benefits to both. Of paramount concern should always be what benefit a school could have for your child, which environment you think they would most thrive in and whether or not they would have any issues which could be helped or hindered by a same-sex or co-educational environment.





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Senior School & Sixth Form

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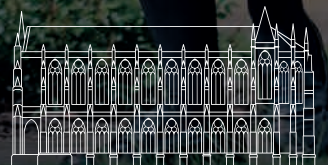
**13–18 years, co-educational boarding and day school**

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**YOUR  
INCREDIBLE  
JOURNEY**







# LATIN VS LANGUAGES

By retired headmaster and education specialist Mervyn Benford

**A**t grammar school I failed my French and German A levels but passed Latin. I had all three at O level, and visited France only to find I could not even ask for a newspaper. We learn languages surely first to speak them. That is the way we learn English - reading and writing then follow naturally, relative to speaking competence - though exams and teaching seriously ignore such natural progression.

In my education career I have had to learn Swedish. I did so by listening and speaking, gradually picking up written forms in newspapers and documents, and now I could write an intelligible, simple letter. I have never had lessons! In 1697, philosopher John Locke declared the time to start the second language, then French, was when competence to speak English first emerged - namely around the age of two, I have assumed. However, he also observed that French was spoken as effectively and fluently by ladies not schooled in grammar - like their men - but by having it spoken into them.

Our entire approach has become misplaced. We will anyway never succeed while the language we gave the world dominates its everyday culture and communication. Google translating reduces further both motivation and purpose. The world inevitably and increasingly uses English. Subliminally we

know it - and it remains difficult to think otherwise.

Sweden is the most recognised country for learning English. Young people really want it - it's a subject much practised out of school hours, homework or not. Teaching 16 to 18-year-olds increasingly in English risks Swedish suffering like UK minority languages. Passengers pulled out of freezing Finnish waters when their ship, and a lot of their tour group, sank could give media interviews in English. The English language was also rarely

Latin has worthy intellectual force. Declensions, conjugations, moods - grammar not seen here since Anglo-Saxon - demand concentration, effort and discipline. These are vital intellectual tools of effective communication. No less than Stephen Hawking declared that artificial intelligence may bring the end of humanity. Technology's mantra is clear, as in the satnav: 'Don't think for yourself any more. We can do it for you... better!' Children reach school barely able to speak, having seen mainly screens.

*'Latin is a doorway to wider learning, and has fuelled my deep interest in antiquity, history and travel'*

heard 50 years ago in Hungary. Now their auction catalogues include English.

Latin is entirely different for not being a spoken language - outside Roman Catholicism. However, it is a doorway to wider learning - my A level course included Roman history and has fired and fuelled my deep interest in antiquity, history and travel. The Vatican link betokens fundamental beliefs about life and living. Science and technology, to say nothing of architecture and design, own roots in classical scholarship and culture - not least Roman. Latin literature has inspired the social and political story of nations. It empowers wisdom and awareness, ever more essential in a world moving far too fast.

At college we learned that even Einstein used only 45 per cent of the brain we have evolved and the average use is 30-35 per cent; new European research puts the average at 15-20 per cent. Technology assaults the brain and its fundamental tool - language. Future society will, more than ever, need those intellectual tools that many employers fail to find when recruiting, despite escalating exam grades - namely, thinking for oneself, making decisions, taking responsibility, working in teams and solving problems. Learning Latin would mitigate such slippage and teach us the enduring truths of life and living. Latin *and* languages makes more sense than years of theorems, quadratic equations and cosines that we will never use.



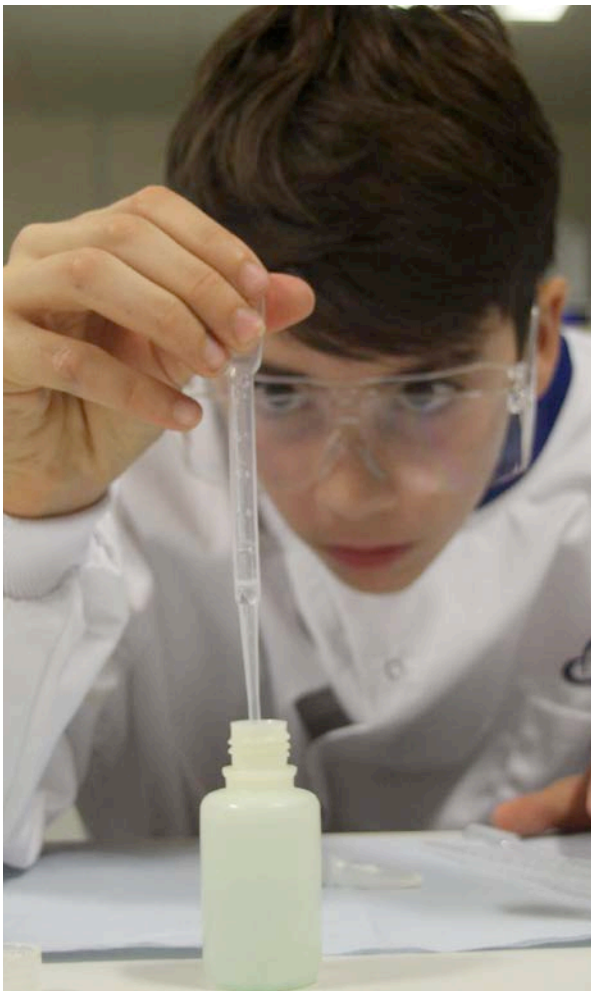



# FOREST SCHOOL

Open Day  
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9.00am - 12.30pm

Senior School  
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**Sixth Form**

Open Evening

IB and A Level Courses  
Tuesday 3rd October  
6.00pm - 8.00pm

RATED ★★★★★  
SCHOOL GUIDE



# SCHOOLS DIRECTORY

Who to contact when you're choosing a school

## **Bishop's Stortford College, Hertfordshire**

◆ 01279-838575, [www.bishopsstortfordcollege.org](http://www.bishopsstortfordcollege.org)

## **Christ Church Cathedral School, Oxford**

◆ 01865-242561, [www.cccs.org.uk](http://www.cccs.org.uk)

## **Cranleigh School, Surrey**

◆ 01483-273666, [www.cranleigh.org](http://www.cranleigh.org)

## **Cranleigh Prep School, Surrey**

◆ 01483-542051, [www.cranprep.org](http://www.cranprep.org)

## **Culford School, Suffolk**

◆ 01284-728615, [www.culford.co.uk](http://www.culford.co.uk)

## **Farringtons School, Kent**

◆ 020-8467 0256, [www.farringtons.org.uk](http://www.farringtons.org.uk)

## **Forest School, Snaresbrook, London**

◆ 020-8520 1744, [www.forest.org.uk](http://www.forest.org.uk)

## **Kent College, Canterbury**

◆ 01227-763231, [www.kentcollege.com](http://www.kentcollege.com)

## **Lancing College, West Sussex**

◆ 01273-465805, [www.lancingcollege.co.uk](http://www.lancingcollege.co.uk)

## **Mayfield School for Girls, East Sussex**

◆ 01435-874600, [www.mayfieldgirls.org](http://www.mayfieldgirls.org)

## **North Bridge House Nursery, Pre-Prep, Prep, Senior and**



## **Sixth Form Schools: Hampstead, Islington and Regent's Park**

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