

# FATFILER<sup>®</sup>



*Schools Guide 2023*  
*The top prep and public schools in the UK*



**CHEAM SCHOOL ●●**

*Headley, Newbury,  
Berkshire RG19 8LD*

*Website cheamschool.com*

*Head William Phelps Pupils 396*

*day and boarding: 220 boys, 176*

*girls Ages 3–13 Term Fees Day:*

*£7,645; weekly boarding: £10,345*

On visiting Cheam for the first

time, one parent recalls being

drawn to 'the energy of the school

and the buzz around the children'.

Perhaps this palpable dynamism

has something to do with its setting

in 100 acres of rolling Berkshire

countryside. With fresh air aplenty,

pupils play at least an hour of sport

a day, and the school has upped

its outdoor activity provision with

climbing walls and assault courses.

Or maybe it's the prep's 'first-class'

pastoral care and the commitment

to outreach (Cheam awards life-

changing bursaries). The winning

combination of these factors results

in waiting lists for many year-

groups. 'Polite, fun, interesting and

interested' leavers head to Eton,

Marlborough and Downe House.

**CHESHAM PREP****SCHOOL ●●**

*Two Dells Lane, Chesham,*

*Buckinghamshire HP5 3QF*

*Website cheshamprep.co.uk*

*Head Jonathan Beale Pupils 392*

*day: 210 boys, 182 girls Ages 3–13*

*Term Fees £5,450*

A litmus test of a school commu-

nity's profile must always be the car-

park,' observes one parent. At

Chesham, it's reported that there is

a healthy mix of vehicles to be

found – with only 10 per cent

named 'flash'. At the helm of this

wholesome, family-orientated prep

'superstar' head Jonathan Beale,

who's been at Chesham for 20

years. Tickets to the summer festi-

val – think camping in the school's

grounds and a silent disco – sell out

as quickly as Glastonbury.

In 2022, 89 per cent of pupils

joined the 11+ and moved on to

eleven grammar schools; every year

several leavers win sports scholar-

ships. On the horizon is a revamp

of the performing arts facilities and

the introduction of LAMDA.

**CHRIST CHURCH  
CATHEDRAL SCHOOL ●●**

*Brewer Street, Oxford OX1 1QW*

*Website cccs.org.uk*

*Head Richard Murray Pupils 140*

*day and boarding: 135 boys, 5 girls*

*Ages 3–13 Term Fees Day: £6,385;*

*boarding (choristers only): £4,460*

With only 140 pupils, CCCS is

small but mighty – and rightfully

proud of its size: 'It's a great advan-

tage and ensures that every pupil is

noticed, included and nurtured.'

Naturally, as a choir school found-

ed by King Henry VIII, 'the dulcet

tones of musical instruments can be

regularly heard along the corridors'.

There are three choirs and, in

2021, 50 per cent of leavers won

music awards to senior schools such

as Teddies and Winchester. But one

parent is keen to dispel the notion

that this is just a musical establish-

ment: 'It's so much more than that'.

Boys learn how to darn socks and

affix buttons in the sewing club;

there's a woodland school; and

planning permission has been

granted for a new sports pavilion.

**COTHILL HOUSE ●**

*Cothill, Oxfordshire OX13 6JL*

*Website cothillpst.org*

*Head Duncan Bailey Pupils 220*

*boarding boys Ages 8–13*

*Term Fees £10,230*

During the Second World War,

boys at Cothill were tasked with

making Molotov cocktails in the

event the German army should

roll through rural Oxfordshire.

Today, the school describes itself as

'the HQ for boys' adventures'. One

parent stresses that 'there is nothing

snooty or pompous' about the

place. Head Duncan Bailey is a

'breath of fresh air' and believes

that children 'must be as unlike a

machine as possible'. Work is under

way on a £6m state-of-the-art

sports centre and the school has

been an IAPS ski champion since

2019. Parents love that Cothill

achieves excellent results 'without

the drama, stress and pressure of

London day schools'. Sixty per cent

of boys go on to Eton, Winchester,

Radley or Harrow, with a healthy

haul of scholarships.

**COTTESMORE  
SCHOOL ●●**

*Buchan Hill, Pease Pottage,*

*West Sussex RH11 9AU*

*Website cottesmoreschool.com*

*Head Tom Rogerson Pupils 200*

*boarding: 120 boys, 80 girls*

*Ages 8–13 Term Fees £9,932*

According to parents, 'Cottesmore

is a magical little corner of the

world', where 'children are allowed

to scamper around and have fun'.

Head Tom Rogerson is 'friendly

and high-spirited', and his musical

influence is ubiquitous (more than

90 per cent of students learn an

instrument). Four new classrooms

have been unveiled, and £200,000

invested in a girls' cricket pitch.

The Croft – where pupils enjoy

agriculture sessions – is thriving

(as are its Japanese quails, chickens,

pigs and rescue ducks). Cottesmore

recently hosted a Quidditch tour-

namment for local schools; ski trips

are back on; and the archaeology

club is popular. Last year's leavers

won scholarships to Charterhouse,

Benenden and Harrow.



*Cheam School*