

Set in 700 acres of countryside, at the end of a long and beautiful driveway, it's hard to believe that it takes just 25 minutes to get here by train from Clapham Junction, Woldingham is very popular with London parents who would rather their daughters didn't board – and would rather not fork out the boarding fees - yet want them to have an all-girls traditional country school experience, which this school offers in spades. Moral values are firmly entrenched here and academic results are strong, particularly in recent years: 2018 saw outstanding STEM results, with over 80 per cent A\*-A in A Level chemistry and further maths. Head Alex Hutchinson is 'an exemplary leader for the girls', according to one parent and 'one of those Heads that you just love immediately,' according to another insider. Hutchinson believes very strongly in creating an environment that doesn't stretch students to breaking point, and parents praise the school's ability to manage the high levels of stress and anxiety that plague so many young people today – and the all-round pastoral care is second to none. Currently, the student body is made up of 25 per cent overseas students and the rest are local or Londonbased. Applications, from more than 80 different feeder schools, have risen in recent years (there are now three applicants per place at 11+). This is a deliberately well-rounded and incredibly supportive school full of happy girls willing to give everything a go.

Tatler Schools Guide 2020

