



The National Mathematics and Science College

**Great for STEM**

**The National Mathematics and Science College**

Founded in 2016 and known as NatMatSci, this co-ed sixth form college is dedicated to providing a world-class education in STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) subjects to teens aged 15 to 19 who want to study at the world's leading universities. Situated just a short walk from the University of Warwick, it offers two programmes of study - a two-year A level programme and a one-year pre-A level programme that builds students' knowledge and skills in science, maths and English. It's early days but *The Good Schools Guide* gave this innovative school the firm thumbs-up, describing it as "an exciting community where bright and like-minded students have a whale of a time challenging both themselves and each other and are privy to some of the best STEM-centred teaching around".

[natmatsci.ac.uk](http://natmatsci.ac.uk)

**Other contenders:**

Oundle School  
Putney High School GDST



Sedbergh School



Bedales

**Great for global outlook**

**Bedales**

Global awareness is woven through the curriculum at this Hampshire school. Bedales is a member of the Round Square organisation - a network of schools from 50 countries that share a commitment to character education and experiential learning built around international understanding, democracy, environmental stewardship, adventure, leadership and service. Pupils take Bedales Assessed Courses (BACs) alongside their GCSEs and the BAC in global awareness is one of the most popular. Sixth formers get the chance to take the Cambridge Pre-U in global perspectives and research, exploring issues like genetic engineering, medical ethics and ethical foreign policies. Meanwhile year 9s undertake projects like "Who made my clothes?", where they learn about globalisation, sustainability and our moral responsibilities to others.

[bedales.org.uk](http://bedales.org.uk)

**Other contenders:**

Westbourne School, Penarth  
Wycliffe College

**Great for outdoor pursuits**

**Sedbergh School**

With 26 different sports and outdoor activities on offer, pupils at this co-ed boarding school have a wealth of outdoor pursuits to choose from. They enjoy everything from river swimming and kayaking to ghyll scrambling and mountain biking and every year up to 190 sixth formers take part in the historic Wilson Run, a ten-mile race across the Cumbrian countryside. The school is 98 per cent full boarding and headmaster Dan Harrison says the pupils have a "can-do" attitude. Their academic achievements are top notch too, with 48 per cent 7-9 grades at GCSE last year and 44 per cent A\*/A at A level. As *The Good Schools Guide* says: "If you want your child to have an outdoorsy experience and be imbued with the robust spirit of a self-starter, this is the place."

[sedberghschool.org](http://sedberghschool.org)

**Other contenders:**

Glenalmond College  
Yarm School

**Great for pupil ideas**

**Notting Hill & Ealing High School GDST**

This high-achieving west London girls' school is teeming with ideas, many of them generated by the pupils themselves. When a year 11 student heard about NHS workers suffering from anxiety and depression during lockdown she launched a whole-school letter-writing initiative, which resulted in girls writing more than 850 letters of gratitude to Ealing Hospital staff. Pupils also created artwork, songs and recordings to spark conversations with care home residents whose families were unable to visit them and a year 9 girl designed a trail of sporty scarecrows to inspire the community to get active. Before the pandemic sixth formers organised a three-day festival to champion women in the film industry.

[nhehs.gdst.net](http://nhehs.gdst.net)

**Other contenders:**

Bedford School  
Cardiff Sixth Form College



Notting Hill & Ealing High School GDST