This partially selective school prides itself on being ‘a sporty, creative, adventurous family’, and there are few things these busy pupils don’t get an opportunity to try. Beyond Chesham’s strong academic record (two-thirds of its pupils pass the 11+; several have won scholarships to top independents), an em­phasis on competitive sport means children are encouraged to develop ‘character and determination’. (They are certainly not squeamish: one girl remarked: ‘Science has been amazing; my favourite activity was dissecting an animal’s eye.’) Drama, art and music and other passions, with pupils recently deliver­ing a joyful production of ‘The Lion King’. The school is next to a working farm - perfect for a spot of daydreaming, watching the tractors and chatting to the cows.

Tatler Schools Guide 2018/19

*The top prep and public schools in the UK.*