

**BOSTON SPA,  
WEST YORKSHIRE**

An unlikely pairing has placed Bostonians (and local property prices) in the ascendant: the arrival of Geoffrey Boycott, Theresa May's favourite batsman, who moved into the best house in the village in 2013; then, two years later, a Taylor Wimpey development. The opening of Church Fields brought welcome custom to a high street where it was once rumoured that every shop was up for sale. Now the local Costcutter has a deli counter and a fine wine selection.

It's not the prospect of glimpsing the GLY (greatest living Yorkshireman) at his own crease that's attracting smart young families, but the easy commute to Leeds – there's no station, but you can drive to Leeds, York or Leeds Bradford airport in half an hour – along with the honey-hued homes and the chance to be somewhere fresh and lively without the hassles of urban life. Boston Spa is less self-satisfied than Harrogate, and more fun than its nice but stuck-in-the-mud neighbour Wetherby. There's a burgeoning team sheet of cafes and cocktail bars, including Tom Foolery and

Southbank; for something more local, try the top-order afternoon tea at Harts Coffee House and Deli (£15.95).

The schooling is equally appealing. Primrose Lane and St Edward's primaries are rated outstanding by Ofsted; the local secondary, Boston Spa Academy, is good. More tigerish options can be found in Harrogate (St Aidan's CofE, Harrogate Grammar) or Tadcaster, where the grammar school has been turned into an academy. Doncaster, 40 minutes away, is a good place to catch a train to London (1hr 37min).

**Best address** The big Georgian properties in the centre – the Terraces are especially desirable.

**Why we love it** On the front foot, not a sticky wicket.

**£361,450 (£980 pcm)**