

Independent SCHOOLS Show

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For Immediate Release

Independent Schools Gather in London as Families Reassess the Value of Private Education

Independent Schools Show Summer Fair
Thursday 14th May 2026
09:15 - 15:30

The Independent Schools Show Summer Fair offers a live snapshot of how Britain's schools are responding to one of the sector's most closely watched periods.

At a time when the independent schools sector is facing increased scrutiny over affordability, value and shifting parental priorities, the ISS returns to RHS Lindley Hall, London, bringing together many of the UK's leading schools for what has become an important barometer of confidence across the sector.

Taking place on May 14th, the Summer Fair will connect thousands of parents with heads, admissions directors, education experts and some of Britain's best-known day, boarding and international schools - offering families direct access to the people and institutions shaping the next generation of education.

With families making what is often one of the biggest emotional and financial decisions of their children's lives, the event has become more than a schools fair - it is increasingly seen as a real-time reflection of how independent schools are adapting to economic pressures, changing demographics, and a more value-conscious parent audience.

More than 100 schools and education specialists are expected to participate, alongside a programme of expert talks covering:

- 11+ and 13+ admissions
- Scholarships and bursaries
- Boarding versus day school choices
- Academic pathways and future readiness
- Pastoral care, wellbeing, and finding the right fit

What the schools say

Dr Niall Hamilton, Admissions, Marlborough College, said:

"Independent schools have always had to evolve. Across centuries, schools have weathered wars, epidemics, economic downturns and political change. The sector has consistently shown resilience and what events like this demonstrate is that families still value education that offers depth, character, and long-term opportunity."

What the parents say

"We came to the Schools Show unsure where to begin and left with genuine clarity. Speaking directly to schools we knew, as well as schools we hadn't considered - made what felt like an overwhelming decision far more manageable."

What we say

David Wellesley Wesley, Founder of the Independent Schools Show, said:

"The questions parents are asking in 2026 are sharper than ever - about value, outcomes, wellbeing and future opportunity. Schools are having to communicate more clearly, compete more intelligently and demonstrate exactly what they offer. The Summer Fair gives families the chance to compare, question and discover where their child will flourish and it also offers a fascinating snapshot of how the sector itself is evolving."

"Independent schools have survived political upheaval, economic crises, and social change for generations. What we're seeing now is not decline, but adaptation and parents deserve the opportunity to see that first-hand."

Notes to Editors

The Independent Schools Show is the UK's leading independent school events platform, for over 15 years, connecting families with schools, educational experts and admissions leaders through exhibitions, talks and advisory events in the UK and internationally. In addition to its London events, the Independent Schools Show hosts international exhibitions across Europe, USA, the Middle East and Asia, connecting expatriate and internationally minded families with British education opportunities.

For media information, interviews, or registration details, visit: schoolsshow.co.uk