

# SUMMER26 TALKS

THE COMPLETE OVERVIEW OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOL CHOICES

## Muddy Stiletto Theatre

### 10:15-11:00 Is it time to leave Central London?

More space. Better value. A different pace of life - and schools you might never have considered. If you've ever wondered whether leaving Central London could work for your family, this is the session to see. Heads of two well-known schools either side of the M25 in discussion with the head of a school in Clapham.

- Rachel Bailey, **Benenden**, *Headmistress*
- Susan Brooks, **London Park School Clapham**, *Head*
- Ceri Jones, **Caterham School**, *Head*
- Hero Brown, **Muddy Stiletto**, *Founder / Editor-in-Chief*

### 11:15-12:00 Will my child actually be happy at school?

Every parent's first question isn't about exam results. It's will my child be happy? Our panel explores how great pastoral care builds the confidence, wellbeing, and sense of self that makes everything else possible.

- Jude Lawson, **The King's School Canterbury**, *Head*
- Jesse Elzinga, **Sevenoaks School**, *Headmaster*
- David Goodhew, **Dukes Education**, *Managing Director*

### 12:15-13:00 Choosing a school: what actually matters (and what doesn't)

Hero Brown, founder of Muddy Stiletto and author of their acclaimed school guide, chairs a frank conversation about how to cut through the information overload to find the school that's genuinely right for your child.

- Mark Beard, **University College School (UCS)**, *Headmaster*
- Will Goldsmith, **Bedaes School**, *Head*
- Alexandra Haydon, **Francis Holland School (Sloane Square)**, *Head*
- Hero Brown, **Muddy Stiletto**, *Founder / Editor-in-Chief*

### 13:15-13:45 One size doesn't fit all: finding the right school for your child

Every child learns differently. Four independent schools share how they make sure no child is overlooked and help you work out which school is the right fit for yours.

- Amy Wallace, **Queen's Gate School**, *Principal*
- Heidi Armstrong, **London Park School Mayfair**, *Incoming Head*
- Aiden Sproat-Clements, **Alley's School Hampstead**, *Deputy Head*
- **King Edward's Witley**

### 14:00-14:30 School fees decoded: bursaries, planning and reality

School fees are rising. So is the pressure on family finances. Our expert panel gives you the practical tools to plan realistically - covering everything from fee structures and bursaries to longer-term financial planning - so you can make the right decision with your eyes open.

- Hero Brown, **Muddy Stiletto**, *Founder / Editor-in-Chief*
- Rishi Zaveri, **LessonWise**
- John Maguire, **Bishop's Stortford College**, *Headmaster*

## Think Academy Stage

### 10:15-11:00 Inside the 11+ / 13+: strategy, timing and preparation (morning session)

How to cope with highly competitive school admissions - Bonas MacFarlane & Think Academy guide you through the tests /pre-tests, and share insights on how to manage school choices, strategy and preparation.

- Harry Cobb, **Bonas MacFarlane**, *Director*
- Amy Kirk, **Bonas MacFarlane**, *Tutor & 11+ Expert*
- Nick Huang, **Think Academy**

### 11:00-11:45 Would my child suit a highly academic school? (morning session)

Three London schools discuss the pace of academic life in their schools, how their admissions work, how they select children, and how you should decide the kind of school that would suit your child.

- Susan Wijeratna, **Latymer Upper School**, *Head*
- Rebecca Golland, **Highgate School**, *Deputy Head*
- Caroline Lesando, **The American School in London**, *Deputy Dean of Admissions*

### 12:00-12:30 Years 6-8: The Years That Matter

In the rush to secure a senior school place at 11, it's easy to overlook an alternative with a long and distinguished track record. What does staying in prep school until 13 actually give a child - and could it be the better route for yours?

- William Goldsmith, **Packwood School**, *Head*
- **Orwell Park School**
- Dale Wilkins, **Boarding Schools Association**

### 12:45-13:15 In London or outside the capital: where should your teenager grow up?

Your child could be navigating the tube at 11, with the world's greatest museums and theatres on their doorstep, living at home with family around them. Or immersed in boarding life, steps from everything they need, surrounded by friends around the clock. Two exceptional schools, which is right for yours?

- Jenny Brown, **City of London Girls School**, *Head*
- Eve Jardine-Young, **Cheltenham Ladies College**, *Executive Principal*

### 13:30-14:15 Would my child suit a highly academic school? (afternoon session)

Three London schools discuss the pace of academic life in their schools, how their admissions work, how they select children, and how you should decide the kind of school that would suit your child.

- Anna Paul, **South Hampstead High School**, *Head*
- Dr Anne Cotton, **King's College School Wimbledon**, *Head*
- Rick Clarke, **St James' Boys School**, *Headmaster*

### 14:15-15:00 Winning the 11+ / 13+: what actually works (afternoon session)

How to cope with highly competitive school admissions - Bonas MacFarlane & Think Academy guide you through the tests /pre-tests, and share insights on how to manage school choices, strategy and preparation.

- William Petty, **Bonas MacFarlane**, *Director*
- Amy Kirk, **Bonas MacFarlane**, *Tutor & 11+ Expert*
- Nick Huang, **Think Academy**

