

Practical Strategies 2026:

Investment, innovation and strategy in Independent Schools.

22 September 2026 - Royal Society, London

VWV co-chairs: Barney Northover and Siân Champkin

09.30	Arrival & registration (30 minutes)	
10.00	Introduction and welcome Barney Northover, VWV	
10.10	Keynote 1: A different perspective: Leadership, identity and culture in a boys' school Sally-Anne Huang, High Master at St Paul's School Group	
10.50	Keynote 2: ISC association panel Mark Taylor, Chair at the ISC; Simon Hyde, CEO at HMC; and Jeanette Cochrane, CEO at The Girls' Schools Association (GSA)	
11.30	Q&A, panel session 1: Speakers from keynotes 1 and 2	
11.45	Coffee break (20 minutes)	
12:05	Breakout 1	
	AM 1 - The employment rights act: What schools need to do now Alice Reeve, VWV and Naseem Nabi, VWV	AM 2 - Smarter schools: AI, efficiency and organisational change Ed Rimmell, VWV and Tom Morgan, VWV
12.50	Lunch (50 minutes)	
13.40	Breakout 2	
	PM 1 - International growth: Risk, opportunity and strategy Doug Locke, VWV and Ian McIntyre, Managing Director at Repton Family of Schools	PM 2 - Parent expectations, school communications and complaint prevention James Garside, VWV and Jo Heyworth, Managing Director at Heywood de Ferrer Associates
14.25	Move back to main room	
14.30	Keynote 3 - Life after merger: Opportunities and challenges of being in a school group Dr Alex Peterken, Head & CEO at Charterhouse and Phil Grainge, Chief Operating Officer at Charterhouse	
15.10	Keynote 4 - The numbers behind the narrative: What the data really says about independent school finances Guy Biggin, Partner at Crowe UK	
15.50	Closing remarks Barney Northover, VWV	
16:00	Tea after close	