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The leading education magazine for parents and staff in the independent schools' sector



In schools we trust

Why online groups can damage trust between parents and schools

Getting enough sleep

How you can help ensure your child gets a good night's sleep

Is it really worth it?

Why prep school education is definitely worth every penny

In this issue

➤ **In schools we trust**
The critical relationship between parents and schools is one of trust. *Dominic Floyd*, Head of Prep at Mount Kelly, looks at how online forums and messaging groups can erode this.

➤ **Getting enough sleep**
Some children struggle to get off to sleep and as a result this can become a cause of stress and anxiety for parents. *Jane Prescott*, Headmistress of Portsmouth High School GDST, offers some advice.

➤ **Is it really worth it?**
Sending your child to a prep school is a serious financial outlay but the benefits are considerable. *Sally Weber-Spokes*, Head of Yarrells, explains why prep education is worth every penny.



➤ **Engineering the future**
Engineering has never been regarded as applicable for prep school age children but, as *Nigel Helliwell*, Headmaster of St Faith's in Cambridge explains, the benefits for pupils are enormous.

➤ **Diversity in schools**
Attending a truly diverse school gives pupils significant benefits for later life. *Rose Hardy*, Head of St Margaret's School, looks at how schools can provide an environment which supports all children.

➤ **News as homework**
One of the best ways to improve a child's general knowledge of the world is to read a newspaper, says *Jane Lunnon*, Head of Wimbledon High School GDST. So why not set newspapers as homework?



Opinion, News & Directory



➤ **Strength in numbers**
Julie Robinson highlights the findings of a report on the value of independent schools.

➤ **Exits and entrances**
Peter Tait explores the reasons for the shift in senior school entrance procedures.

➤ **Variety and choice**
Christopher King highlights why curriculum freedom is so important for prep schools.

➤ **Time for a school dog?**
Mark Hammond explains how school dogs can have a hugely positive impact on a school.

➤ **Valuing friendships**
Charlotte de la Peña looks at a fresh approach to solving pupil friendship problems.

➤ **Teaching leadership**
John Gilmour argues it is time everyone has the chance to develop leadership skills.

➤ **What is English?**
Tim Hands looks at English and concludes it's a subject of secondary importance.

➤ **School News**
A round-up of the latest news stories sent to us from prep and senior schools.

➤ **School Open Days**
Find details of forthcoming prep and senior school open days in your area.

Behind the cover photo



Bede's Zoo contains around 70 species of mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, fish and invertebrates, including Madagascan lemurs and South

American squirrel monkeys. It's a truly unique facility: a teaching resource which enables pupils to learn and to pursue their interests, and which allows pupils

to participate in national and international programmes for the benefit of wildlife. (Photo: Paul Hickinbotham, *Positive Negatives*) www.bedes.org