

THE JUNE WEBINAR: 27 & 28 JUNE 2023

“In the Eye of the Storm: Effective Governance for Independent Schools”

The webinar will be delivered live on two occasions by Mungo Dunnett and Charles Gillow.

Mungo has become established as the most forensic and strategically insightful critic of the schools sector, and of individual schools’ commercial performance. He is also amongst the best-regarded speakers in the sector. In the last two years his various webinars analysing the rapid changes in the sector have been attended by over 1,300 people.

Charles is a school governor, chairing a Governance and Compliance Committee, and has broad experience as a governor of two schools and bursar in two other schools. Since 2020 he has assisted schools, and their governors, with the handling of complaints, governance challenges, senior staff appraisals and strategic reviews, and he has worked with Mungo on projects to assess schools’ positions in their markets.

Synopsis

The independent school sector is under great pressure at a time of major change in markets for education, of difficult demographics, and a challenging political/financial backdrop.

The Charity Governance Code states: “**Good governance is fundamental to a charity’s success.** It enables and supports a charity’s compliance with the law and relevant regulations. It also promotes a culture in which everything works towards fulfilling the charity’s vision.”

The new ISI inspection framework places **governance at the forefront in the evaluation of schools** and future inspection findings will begin with an evaluation of governance in its role of actively promoting the wellbeing of pupils, and ensuring persons with leadership and management responsibilities demonstrate good skills and knowledge, appropriate to their roles, and fulfil their responsibilities effectively.

This session will consider these trends and pressures, and how they manifest themselves. It will discuss the issues facing governors in their critical roles as trustees

and directors, drawing on examples of good practice in governance across the sector, and highlighting a number of very practical issues in the wider context of good governance.

Agenda

The webinar will consider the following issues:

- *The Macro*: the frog in hot water. Threats and opportunities; inflation, running costs, TPS, tax changes.
- *The Market*: why parents choose independent schools and what pressures they face. The critical consideration – your actual parent types: the main parent types in the independent school sector, and what they expect from your schools.
- *All change*: patterns of change in the sector, and what these mean for good governance.
- *Doing the unthinkable*: changing the model; charity mergers; transfer/sale to a group; joint ventures; success criteria; what typically happens.
- *Good governance*: the characteristics of proactive, effective governance; organising for success; team working, skills and experience to set direction; evidence, internal audit, assurance, and an appropriate plan-do-review cycle; providing support for, monitoring progress by, and holding to account, school leaders.
- *Local issues*: the role of good governance in handling local issues within a school; addressing risk in an uncertain world; leading change; grasping the nettle; managing difficult relationships.
- *Rising to the challenge*: the characteristics of those schools where good governance contributes to sustainable success.
- *You are not alone*: learning from others; where to go for advice and help.



About these sessions

Mungo Dunnett Associates are the leading strategic research company working in the UK independent schools sector. We have carried out detailed strategic research projects to strengthen or reposition the model of 289 schools, or to assess their commercial strength and market attractiveness versus their nearest competitors; worked to steer or facilitate strategic debate for 70 sets of school governors, delivered 123 Inset talks, and, most importantly, carried out 38,000 in-depth qualitative interviews with parents, providing an unchallenged perspective on the strategic and commercial issues facing our independent schools. Our work is selective, and always led personally by Mungo Dunnett.

These webinars – and the masterclass sessions which preceded them – allow our enormous data set and practical experience of schools’ strategic issues to be brought to bear on the various issues being faced by Britain’s independent schools.

Q&A opportunity

These webinars are structured as lectures, although delegates are invited to ask questions via the Chat function. Mungo and Charles are happy to stay online after the 60 minute webinar to address these. Note that Chat questions, if sent solely to Mungo rather to everyone, will be addressed **without identifying the person or school involved**, thus preserving your own anonymity.

In previous webinars this has been an important aspect of the session. Delegates may wish to diarise a further 15 minutes after the 60 minute lecture in order to benefit from the Q&A aspect.

Two opportunities

To enable convenient participation, the same webinar will be delivered live on two separate occasions:

- Tuesday 27 June, 6.00 – 7.00pm
- Wednesday 28 June, 2.00 – 3.00pm

Delegates

This session is intended for Governors and Clerks to the Governors at independent schools of all type.

Call etiquette

Each webinar is limited to 25 delegates.

To avoid distraction and bandwidth issues please note that all participants will automatically be muted, and have their camera disabled, for the duration of the talk.

Delegates will be given a Zoom login, and will be admitted individually into the meeting by the administrator.

Booking details

Delegate places are charged at **£240** each (inc. VAT). As these webinars invariably sell out, there is a limit of two delegates per school. Schools are asked to make their bookings as soon as they are able.

Bookings and enquiries for your preferred date/time should be directed to:

Mungo Dunnett Associates

11 Polstead Road,

Oxford OX2 6TW

01865 311966

info@md-as.com

www.md-as.com