Ensuring the Best ISI Inspection Outcome for Independent Schools

Thursday 1st May 2025 Tuesday 23rd September 2025 Virtual Masterclass Virtual Masterclass

Facilitated by:

Mike Buchanan



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BEST CONFERENCE

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OUTLINE

The inspectors view; what are they looking for?

The school view; how do we get ready?

All independent schools, whether large or small, rely on their reputations as centres of excellence for teaching, learning, assessment, wellbeing, care and guidance. This is doubly so in times of economic challenge. Ensuring a great outcome in your next inspection is part of building and maintaining your reputation.

Inspections can happen at any time. Being ready and knowing how to present your school in a way that will assist and guide the inspecting team is a key part of the successful outcome for your school that you need. This masterclass will take you into the minds of the inspecting team so that you can see your school from their perspective, and help you to start to build an indisputable bank of evidence to present to them, whenever they appear.

KEY LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this masterclass, participants will be able to:

- Gain insight into key areas inspectors focus on during independent school inspections.
- Understand how to build a robust evidence base that demonstrates school excellence.
- Learn strategies to effectively present the school's strengths to inspection teams.
- Explore ways to guide and support colleagues in preparation for inspections.
- Develop a proactive approach to maintaining inspection readiness.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Heads, Deputies and Assistant Heads wishing to better understand how to help colleagues prepare for inspection.

VIRTUAL PROGRAMME

09.55am	REGISTRATION		
10.00am	Overview of the ISI inspection framework		
10.45am	Steps you can start taking now to get ready		
11.30am	COMFORT BREAK AND VIRTUAL		
	NETWORKING		
11.45am	Deep dive into the standards including significant strengths		
12.30pm	Plenary & final Q&A		
1.00pm	CLOSE OF DAY		

FACILITATOR

Mike is a Senior Inspection Associate for JMC Education. He has experience in secondary education, all-through schools and boarding, and has held a variety of leadership posts in London and elsewhere. He helped to establish three statefunded schools in London and Kent. He is or has been a trustee of several independent and state schools in the UK and internationally, a trustee of a children's charity and a literary festival, a Reporting Inspector, a UK National Leader of Education and a Chair of Turner Schools.

Mike is the Founder of Positively Leading, a bespoke coaching/mentoring and strategy consultancy and is Executive Head of the world's leading academy for elite skiers - Apex2100. He was most recently the Executive Director of HMC, the English-speaking world's oldest association of Head Teachers. As a Head, he oversaw the transformation of a small girls' school to a thriving all-age, co-educational day/boarding, independent school of over 1,000 children and young people. Ashford School was awarded Independent School of the Year during his tenure.



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