HEADS INDUCTION CONFERENCE 2027

The Courage of Leadership

Hanbury Manor, Ware

Wednesday 13 – Thursday 14 January

The ISA Heads Induction Conference is an opportunity for Members new to the Association to discover how ISA can support you as Head, as well as to explore the latest thinking on school leadership. The wealth of expertise at the conference includes our delegates, who are knowledgeable and talented school leaders from across the sector. Through a mix of keynotes and scenario-based explorations, delegates will build collegiality and further develop the skills necessary for successful and sustainable leadership.

WEDNESDAY

10.00 **Registration and refreshments**

10.30 **Welcome and introduction** *Sue Knox, ISA Chair 2026/27*

10.40 **Creating emotionally intelligent schools: understanding brain development** *Victor Allen*

Victor Allen helps school leaders to develop a critical understanding of emotion and brain development. Highlighting significant changes which take place during their school years and how this should affect our interactions, as well as what is beneficial considering the impact of the pandemic. Helping Generation Z and Alpha prepare for adult life.

11.30 **Legal pitfalls and opportunities for Heads** *Gemma Woodhouse, Penningtons Manches Cooper LLP*

There is an increasing amount of regulation and legislation relating to the operation of Schools. This session identifies the key legal pitfalls that Heads may face whilst running their Schools as well as highlighting opportunities that may be available. We will cover a broad range of subjects ranging from equality law, consumer regulations and contracts, safeguarding issues and the use of third-party data.

12.30 **Lunch** in the Assembly Hall

13.30 **So, what does ISC do for you?** *Julie Robinson, General Secretary, ISC*

ISA is one of the five Heads' Associations under the ISC umbrella. Schools aren't direct members of ISC, but what can ISC do for you and your school?

14.00 **Critical incident management** *Stuart Nicholson*

At some stage all Heads are likely to have a crisis to deal with in their school. Whilst all crises are different, there are some common themes in them and there are important approaches to handling them. This session considers some real-life crises, drawn from within ISA, to give Heads the chance to consider how they would handle these real situations.

15.00 **Networking and refreshments**

15.30 **Talking Heads: Harnessing authenticity in your presentation skills** *Faith Hagerty*

Faith Hagerty, founder of The Acting Head, will take delegates through the importance of authenticity in school leadership, focusing specifically on how we present to our key audiences through public speaking, video and podcast. Heads will come away with some useful techniques for tapping into their true selves and celebrating what makes them human. As a trained actor and former Head, Faith brings her two fields of experience together to support leaders in a warm and interactive workshop.

16.20 **An opportunity to discuss current topics and today's sessions with fellow members**

Drop-in session for new Heads, led by Helen Stanton-Tonner

Drop-in session for more experienced Heads led by Peter Woodroffe

17.00 **Hotel check-in** at the ISA registration desk

18.30 **Drinks reception** in Assembly Hall ***Sponsored by NAHT***
19.45 **Dinner** in Poles Hall ***Sponsored by Community Playthings***

THURSDAY

From 06.30 **Breakfast** in the Cast Iron

08.50 **Welcome** *Sue Knox, ISA Chair 2026/27*

09.00 **Panel discussion on experiences of practical leadership**

It's recognised that our views of headship and leadership are honed by experience. An opportunity to hear from other ISA Members about their journeys and their schools.

10.00 **ISI Inspection: what to expect and how to be ready** Dai Preston

11.00 **Networking and refreshments**

11.30 **Getting value out of ISA Membership: opportunities for children, staff, heads and parents**
Peter Woodroffe and the ISA Team

ISA wants you to get the most from your membership. Here we provide an overview of our support and the opportunities for your staff and pupils.

12.05 **Getting your head around the bigger picture; your role through a different lens**
Rhiannon Cutler, Baines Cutler
Leading a school means balancing people, parents, culture, educational ambition and commercial reality. Drawing on Baines Cutler's unique vantage point across independent schools, Rhiannon Cutler explores how these priorities connect, what the data can — and can't — tell you, and the considerations to prioritise in a fast changing sector
or
An opportunity for specialist SEND schools to discuss, *led by Helen Stanton-Tonner*

12.45 **Final Words** *Sue Knox, ISA Chair 2026/27*
Followed by Lunch in the Assembly Hall