

# SPOTLIGHT ON SCHOOLS - BURSAR

School leadership takes many forms, but despite the differences in each role, they are unified by their dedication to excellence in education and creating an atmosphere where students and teachers can thrive.

Hayley spoke to Nicholas Grenfell who has been a Bursar for 37 years as well as a governor at five schools and held chair and treasurer roles and has experience in the independent and maintained sectors.

## **What does leadership mean to you in your role as Bursar?**

Leadership for me is all about engendering the best performance from the team who work with me to ensure that the core function of the school, the education of children, is carried out with as much support as possible (most of which will be invisible to the rest of the school).

The Bursar role is all about representing the best interest of a school and every member of staff. Leadership in a bursar role is about working with the board of governors to advise on legal and charitable aspects and working alongside the head to check and challenge ensuring a thriving school community.

## **What do you think is the biggest impact your role as Bursar has on the school?**

In the last 3 years our school has been through a series of major crises which may have caused the school to close (safeguarding, possible deregulation and potential insolvency). In my role of Bursar I have taken a lead on many of the aspects to enable the Head and rest of Senior Leadership to run the school without distraction (as far as possible). Not to blow one's own trumpet, but in our particular instance I was pivotal in ensuring the school's survival. In normal circumstances I believe the role of Bursar is all about ensuring that the non-academic operations run smoothly and without incidents!

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## What do you see as the biggest challenge to the independent education sector?

No doubt financial pressures will be the biggest factors, caused by potential of VAT on school fees and the cost of living crisis causing affordability concerns.



*Hayley Minter joined Anderson Quigley as a Partner in 2022 to further develop the schools and colleges practice. She specialises in the education sector and connecting talent that is passionate about providing high quality inclusive education. She has built a track record with education leaders and helped many organisations identifying top talent.*

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*Nicholas Grenfell-Marten is currently the Bursar at Ruthin School and has been a Bursar for 35 years with experience in the maintained and independent sectors and in day and boarding schools. He is a former Chairman of the Independent Schools' Bursars Association and has been a governor of 5 schools, including in the role of Chair and Treasurer.*

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