

# SPOTLIGHT ON SCHOOLS - CHAIR

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 with Dr Helen Wright, Chair of the British School of Amsterdam, Chair of Light Up Learning, former Vice-Chair of the Independent Schools Council and former President of the Girls' Schools Association to learn more about what leadership means to her.

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

Being a Chair is a complex role, and – as with any leadership – it depends on supporting, leading, managing, empowering, enabling the Board so that they can understand and conduct their governance roles effectively. The difference in schools (compared to other organisations) is that Board members are usually volunteers, have busy lives/day jobs, and have a specific governance rather than an executive leadership set of tasks for which they may not be prepared or experienced. There are many, many moving parts; great leadership by the Chair relies on having an outstanding Clerk to the Governors!

## **What do you think is key to successful leadership in schools?**

A visionary, practical, values-driven Head, who is wise enough to involve everyone in school in appropriate ways to ensure that the very best education is actively available to all, and children are enabled to grow into decent human beings with a range of choices ahead of them.

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

The same challenge that there has been for decades – a fundamental distrust of independent schools. This outdated and misplaced approach inhibits the whole education sector in general from benefiting from a sharing of expertise in order to tackle the challenges that face the world.



*Hayley Mintern 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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*Dr Helen Wright is a nationally and internationally respected educational leader and advisor with over 2 decades of practical executive experience in futures-focused educational leadership. She is a determined advocate globally for the education and development of young people and school leaders.*

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