Practical Strategies 2026:

Investment, innovation and strategy in Independent Schools.

22 September 2026 - Royal Society, London

VWV co-chairs: Barney Northover and Siân Champkin

09.30	**Arrival & registration (30 minutes)**	
10.00	**Introduction and welcome** Barney Northover, VWV	
10.10	**Keynote 1: A different perspective: Leadership, identity and culture in a boys' school** Sally-Anne Huang, High Master at St Paul's School Group	
10.50	**Keynote 2: ISC association panel** Mark Taylor, Chair at the ISC; Jeanette Cochrane, CEO at The Girls' Schools Association (GSA); Simon Hyde, CEO at HMC; and Virginia Parkes, CEO at AGBIS	
11.30	**Q&A, panel session 1:** Speakers from keynotes 1 and 2	
11.45	**Coffee break (20 minutes)**	
12:05	**Breakout 1**	
	AM 1 - The employment rights act: What schools need to do now Alice Reeve, VWV and Naseem Nabi, VWV	**AM 2 - Smarter schools: AI, efficiency and organisational change** Ed Rimmell, VWV and Tom Morgan, VWV
12.50	**Lunch (50 minutes)**	
13.40	**Breakout 2**	
	PM 1 - International growth: Risk, opportunity and strategy Doug Locke, VWV and Ian McIntyre, Managing Director at Repton Family of Schools	**PM 2 - Parent expectations, school communications and complaint prevention** James Garside, VWV and Jo Heyworth, Managing Director at Heywood de Ferrer Associates
14.25	**Move back to main room**	
14.30	**Keynote 3 - Life after merger: Opportunities and challenges of being in a school group** Dr Alex Peterken, Head & CEO at Charterhouse and Phil Grainge, Chief Operating Officer at Charterhouse	
15.10	**Keynote 4 - The numbers behind the narrative: What the data really says about independent school finances** Guy Biggin, Partner at Crowe UK	
15.50	**Closing remarks** Barney Northover, VWV	
16:00	**Tea after close**	