

HMC
THE HEADMASTERS' AND HEADMISTRESSES' CONFERENCE

website: www.hmc.org.uk

The HMC dates from 1869, when the celebrated Edward Thring of Uppingham asked thirty-seven of his fellow headmasters to meet at his house to consider the formation of a 'School Society and Annual Conference'. Twelve headmasters accepted the invitation. From that date there have been annual meetings. Thring's intention was to provide an opportunity for discussion at regular intervals, both on practical issues in the life of a school and on general principles in education. He believed that his guests would discharge their practical business more effectively at a residential meeting where they could also enjoy being in the company of like-minded men. Annual Meetings of the HMC still combine formal debate on current educational questions with the second element of conversational exchanges in an agreeable environment. These gatherings, which up to 1939 were usually at individual schools, then took place at a University. Nowadays they are held in major hotels and Conference centres in the Autumn term. In addition to these annual conferences attended by all members, there are local meetings each term arranged by the ten branches or Divisions into which the country is divided.

Present full membership of the HMC is a total of two hundred and fifty two, which now includes headmasters and headmistresses of boys', girls' and co-educational schools. In considering applications for election to membership, the Committee has regard to the degree of independence enjoyed by the Head and his/her school. Eligibility also depends on the academic standards obtaining in the school, as reflected by the proportion of pupils in the Sixth Form pursuing a course of study beyond GCSE and by the school's public examination results, including A Levels, the International Baccalaureate and the Cambridge Pre-U.

The Constitution provides that the full membership shall consist only of heads of independent schools in the UK and Ireland. At the same time, it is held to be a strength that the Conference includes heads of schools of other status. There is provision therefore for the election of a small number of heads of maintained schools (Additional Membership).

In addition the HMC has a number of International members, who are heads of high quality schools from around the world. There is also a small number of Honorary Associates who have been elected to life membership on retirement.

The HMC is closely associated with the other independent sector associations that also belong to the Independent Schools Council (ISC), and with the Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL), which represents the Heads and senior staff of secondary schools and colleges in both the maintained and independent sectors.

The HMC Committee 2012–2013

<i>Chairman</i>	Chris Ray	The Manchester Grammar School
<i>Vice-Chairman</i>	Kenneth Durham	University College School
<i>Chairman-Elect</i>	Tim Hands	Magdalen College School
<i>Treasurer</i>	Barry Martin	Hampton School
<i>Chairman – East</i>	Philip John	Gresham's School
<i>Secretary – East</i>	Gill Dixon	Trent College
<i>Chairman – Irish</i>	Scott Naismith	Methodist College, Belfast
<i>Secretary – Irish</i>	Moore Dickson	Belfast Royal Academy
<i>Chairman – London</i>	Mark Steed	Berkhamsted School
<i>Secretary – London</i>	Sarah Kerr-Dineen	Forest School
<i>Chairman – North East</i>	Michael Gibbons	The Grammar School at Leeds
<i>Secretary – North East</i>	Andrew Fleck	Sedbergh School
<i>Chairman – North West</i>	John Clark	Birkenhead School
<i>Secretary – North West</i>	Christopher Jeffery	The Grange School
<i>Chairman – Scottish</i>	David Girdwood	St Columba's School
<i>Secretary – Scottish</i>	Gordon Woods	Glenalmond College
<i>Chairman – South Central</i>	Simon Williams	Churcher's College
<i>Secretary – South Central</i>	Michael Windsor	Reading Blue Coat School
<i>Chairman – South East</i>	Peter Green	Ardingly College
<i>Secretary – South East</i>	Mike Buchanan	Ashford School
<i>Chairman – South West</i>	Martin Reader	Wellington School
<i>Secretary – South West</i>	Richard Backhouse	Monkton Combe School
<i>Chairman – West</i>	Jonathan Lancashire	Dean Close School
<i>Secretary – West</i>	John Watson	Bablake School
<i>Chairman – International</i>	Steffen Sommer	British School of Paris

Co-opted Members

<i>Chairman of Academic Policy</i>	Peter Hamilton	Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School
<i>Chairman of Professional Development</i>	Chris King	Leicester Grammar School
<i>Chairman of Universities</i>	Chris Ramsey	King's School, Chester
<i>Chairman of Inspection</i>	Stephen Cole	Woodbridge School
<i>Chairman of Communications</i>	Kevin Fear	Nottingham High School
	Tony Little	Eton College

General Secretary: William Richardson, BA, DPhil (Tel: 01858 469059)

Membership Secretary: Ian Power, MA (Tel: 01858 465260)

Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference
12 The Point, Rockingham Road, Market Harborough, Leicestershire LE16 7QU
Tel: 01858 465260 • Fax: 01858 465759 • e-mail: hmc@hmc.org.uk