

Independent facts

- **91%** of pupils at ISC schools progress to higher education, including **55%** to Russell Group universities
- Between **£10 million** and **£15 million** was raised for charities at ISC schools in 2016/17
- **33%** of ISC pupils are on a reduced fee; more than **40%** of those on means-tested bursaries pay less than half the fee
- **1,140** ISC schools are currently in partnership with state schools

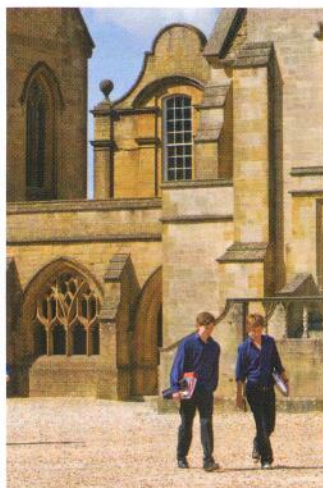
SOURCE: INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS COUNCIL (ISC)

Independent innovators who changed the world

School classrooms and science labs have always been innovative places, encouraging students to think big, develop new ideas and test prototypes. It's hardly surprising, then, that over the years independent schools have produced some of the UK's most successful inventors.

British chemist Rosalind Franklin, best known for her discovery of the structure of DNA, attended St Paul's Girls' School in west London, where she excelled at science, Latin and sports. William Henry Fox Talbot, the inventor of photography, was a pupil at Harrow School while Sir James Dewar, who invented the thermos flask (not to keep tea hot but to help his experiments on cooling gases), was educated at Dollar Academy in Clackmannanshire.

Christopher Cockerell, who designed the hovercraft after realising that lifting boats out of the water would make them go faster, went to Gresham's in Norfolk, as did James Dyson, the man behind the bagless vacuum



Sherborne School, Dorset: inventor Alastair Pilkington was a pupil here

cleaner. ATM (automated teller machine) inventor John Shepherd-Barron was a student at Stowe in Buckinghamshire and Alastair Pilkington, who invented the float glass process, attended Sherborne School in Dorset.

One of today's most famous inventors, Sir Tim Berners-Lee, who created the World Wide Web, went to Emanuel School in south west London. The school was a direct grant grammar school at the time but became an independent school in 1975, two years after he left. After Emanuel, Berners-Lee headed to The Queen's College, Oxford, where he gained a first class degree in physics.

Welcome



As the new academic year gets into its stride, we are delighted to present the latest edition of *The Week's* highly acclaimed *Independent Schools Guide*. As ever, there's a lot going on in the education world. In this issue we report on some of the key topics, from the respective merits of A levels and the IB to how pupils can have a say in decisions that affect them at school.

The British aren't renowned for their language prowess and the number of teenagers taking languages at A level and GCSE is in decline, so we investigate how independent schools are keeping language teaching alive. Amid widespread concern about the pressures on young people, Brighton College head master Richard Cairns explains how schools can create a climate where children can thrive and be happy. We also talk to leading heads about their own schooldays. Tudor Hall headmistress Wendy Griffiths remembers her impressive biology teacher while Sherborne headmaster Dominic Lockett talks about the confidence his inspirational history teacher gave him.

Finally, we present our exclusive annual guide to the best independent senior schools. We have studied the league tables, analysed the exam data and talked to education experts, teachers, parents and pupils to bring you the schools at the top of their game. Do send us your feedback and suggestions. *Emma Lee-Potter*

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