



## Scholarships and Bursaries

### **Susan Hamlyn, Director Emerita, Good Schools Guide**

Independent school fees are expensive and have risen disproportionately compared to average salaries and even house prices in recent years. For most people – even educated professionals on good salaries – finding the money for the fees is a real challenge and to educate more than one child in an independent school can be prohibitive. However, the schools want the talented children of parents who believe in what they have to offer as much as the parents want the places. The independent school sector now spends £1 billion annually on fee assistance in the shape of scholarships and bursaries. These can enable bright and gifted children to take up places at our great schools. But what are scholarships and bursaries? Who offers what? How should one approach a school if one wants to apply for fee assistance? How do the schools decide? How can one prepare? What are the chances of success? How much might one get?

Susan Hamlyn, Director Emerita of the Good Schools Guide and founder of the only Scholarships and Bursaries Service in the UK will demystify the system and the process. She will stress the importance of informing oneself, avoiding pitfalls, preparing in good time and, above all, being realistic about your child, your financial situation and the opportunities available in your locality.

“Scholarships are not only offered for academic brainboxes. Schools also offer scholarships in other things that enable the school to shine e.g. music, sports, art, drama.”

“If you apply for a bursary, you must expect your entire financial and domestic circumstances to be looked at. This includes your family income, your assets e.g. properties you own - but also your commitments. They will want to know about your lifestyle.”

“The crucial thing is to be realistic - both about your child's abilities and about your ability to pay for an independent school.”