

**Scottish Council of Independent Schools  
Media Release**

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**Time to let ethos, values and service shine through**

**Scotland's independent schools on the front foot in promoting their unique contribution to education in Scotland**

At its AGM today, the Scottish Council of Independent Schools will look ahead to the new opportunities that await the schools in the years to come. After years of intense scrutiny, as well as the challenges of the recession and the independence referendum, schools are well set for the months and years to come, with education of the individual foremost in all they do.

Discussion of education and of the independent sector all too often takes place without direct engagement with independent schools, their teachers, pupils and families. Many assumptions and preconceptions have long since outlived any element of truth. It is time for others to look again at the independent sector and what works within it, and accept the place it holds, and will continue to hold, in Scottish education.

John Edward, SCIS Director, said:

*“Schools in SCIS membership have been under particular scrutiny in recent years, and their values, commitment and contribution have shone through. After this demanding period, the chilly economic climate and an unprecedented political background in Scotland, the schools are focusing more than ever on what they do to their unparalleled best – delivering individual educational outcomes for pupils of all abilities and backgrounds.*

*All too rarely do people take the chance to look at what our schools actually do. No one should doubt that the independent sector stands ready to share that experience, and hear that of others, should the offer of partnership and shared working be taken up. In the meantime, ours is a sector which is going nowhere but onwards and shrinking from nothing.”*

**Press queries**

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**Note to editors:**

- The Scottish Council of Independent Schools (SCIS) is an educational charity representing over 70 member schools, which educate more than 30,000 children of mixed abilities and

diverse backgrounds. SCIS promotes **choice, diversity** and **excellence** in Scottish education. For more information please visit the SCIS website: [www.scis.org.uk](http://www.scis.org.uk)

- 4.4% of pupils in Scotland attend an independent school. The independent school sector is equivalent in size to the 7<sup>th</sup> largest local authority in Scotland.