The Compass

March 2026

IBSC Executive Director Tom Batty

Colleagues,

Buoyed by an inspiring IBSC regional conference at St Paul's, London, I send warm, if somewhat damp, *Compass* welcome, as we paddle, skate, surf and perhaps even curl our way through the first acts of 2026.

Like a skeleton slider at Milan Cortina, boys' schools are gathering momentum and confidence in articulating the case for boys' education and doubling down on their status as boys' schools for these times. Research is central to this, and IBSC commitment to its action research and global research programmes puts us in strong position. The authority provided for programme development was evident in the findings and recommendations of our most recent collaboration with Professor Andrew Martin and grows from the classroom up in every action research project. It is an area of operations we continue to advance.

In late February, I spoke to members of the school of education at a UK university seeking to convince that knowledge of boys' development, how they learn and are best supported should be part of all teacher training programmes. I was asked, 'How do you help a disaffected boy reconnect and build relationships.' My mind went back over the years of research, the legion engagements and conversations, and the commitment to share and learn what works for boys. Those who work in boys' schools have much to offer.

Our diversity of region and system continues to give weight to our work and voice. Amidst the many locals in the 120 plus gathering at St Paul's, were colleagues from Spain, Italy, Poland, Switzerland, the UAE and the USA. It is from such base, across independent Catholic and government systems, that common themes were identified, ideas exchanged and practices honed.

In late June the mix will be richer still, as we converge on St. Stithians College, Johannesburg, South Africa, for the 2026 IBSC Annual Conference. In my travels, nowhere is the beat stronger or more compelling than with our friends in South Africa. As in their past, we are challenged to *Sukuma, Uye Phambili: Rise Up, Walk Forward*. If not yet signed up, I encourage you take the advice and join the many travelling to Gauteng to share stories on a backbeat of optimism for all education can achieve.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to your IBSC.

Tom

Welcome to Our New Members!

Caulfield Grammar School
Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
www.caulfieldgs.vic.edu.au

Ilford County High School
Ilford, Essex, United Kingdom
https://ichs.org.uk/

Boys and the Deepfake Landscape

In the latest episode of the IBSC Exploring Boys' Education Podcast, Evan Harris details the complex and rapidly evolving world of deepfakes. An expert on emerging AI risks in schools, Harris moves beyond the headlines of digital abuse to reveal how the realm of synthetic media is fundamentally altering the way boys interact with reality, consent, and each other. Tune in to learn how schools can move past scare tactics to empower boys with the ethical framework and trusted adult support necessary to navigate the disappearing line between real and fake.

Listen now.

IBSC Special Interest Group on Relational Learning

Read the new snapshot from the IBSC Special Interest Group on Relational Learning. Several schools reflect on the most pressing questions shaping our work in relational learning and invite you to consider the implications for your school. We encourage IBSC colleagues to join the group. Your questions, insights, and experience will enrich this ongoing conversation and strengthen our shared capacity to advance relational teaching as a foundational practice in boys' education.

Learn more.

Add Staff to Your School Profile in the IBSC Member Center

Make sure everyone on your team can register for IBSC events, listen to the latest podcast, and take advantage of all exclusive member benefits like IBSC Action Research, member webinars, global research initiatives, and the IBSC Aspiring Leaders' Colloquia. Each faculty and staff member should create their own password for their username, which is their school email. Add their contact details to your school profile in the IBSC Member Center to keep your entire school connected with IBSC.

Learn more.

2026 IBSC Annual Conference

Join more than 600 boys' educators, colleagues, and friends June 29 - July 2, for the **2026 IBSC Annual Conference** in Johannesburg, Gauteng, South Africa. St. Stithians College hosts us to explore the theme *Sukuma, Uye Phambili*: Rise Up, Walk Forward. Save money and maximize learning for your team when you **send a group** of 4+ people.

Remember to make your **hotel reservation** before rooms sell out.

Get more details.

Workshops at the IBSC Annual Conference

Get new ideas and learn effective practices in agency and impact, leadership and professional development, connection and character development, and technology and pedagogy. Gain expert advice from leading boys' educators as we explore and debate the best ways to promote the education of boys and prepare them to face the challenges of tomorrow. Browse **123 workshops** during six time blocks, including a block dedicated to IBSC Action Research presentations.

Get more details.

Making Headlines

Strategies for Teaching Boys
Mary Ellen Flannery
NEA Today
"Taylor is aware of what pundits are calling the 'boy crisis' in U.S. schools. Every day, he lays the foundation so his little ones can climb higher. In his classroom, he models how to ask for help, how to be vulnerable, how to be a friend and work in teams, and how to succeed in school and life."

Why Boys Are Behind in Reading at Every Age
Claire Cain Miller
The New York Times
"Boys' reading struggles are not inevitable, research suggests, and addressing the deficit could improve outcomes in school and beyond."

Ten challenges facing men and boys
Centre for Policy Research on Men and Boys
"There are a range of challenges facing men and boys in the UK. Here is a snapshot of the key areas and for deeper statistics, please do refer to research reports and research snapshots."

Read more stories impacting boys' education on our **Education Headlines** page.

Upcoming Events

IBSC Ideas Lab for Heads of Boys' Schools in Asia and Australasia
Online Program
Starting March 10, 2026
Get more details.

IBSC Boys and Gaming
Online Program
March 23, 2026
Get more details.

The Resilient Boy: Skills for Success in School and Beyond
Online Class
April 13 - May 3, 2026
Get more details.

IBSC Ideas Lab for Communicating the Value of a Boys' School
Online Program
Starting April 15, 2026
Get more details.

IBSC Ideas Lab for Middle Leaders in Boys' Schools
Online Program
Starting April 21, 2026
Get more details.

IBSC Australasian Regional Conference
Prince Alfred College and St. Peter's College
Adelaide, South Australia, Australia
May 3 - 5, 2026
Get more details.

IBSC Ideas Lab for School Librarians in Boys' Schools
Online Program
Starting May 5, 2026
Get more details.

2026 IBSC Annual Conference
St. Stithians College
Johannesburg, Gauteng, South Africa
June 29 - July 2, 2026
Get more details.

2027 IBSC Annual Conference
The Scots College
Sydney, New South Wales, Australia
June 30 - July 3, 2027
Get more details.

IBSC Virtual Visit to Your School
Online Program
Mutually agreed-upon date and time
Get more details.

Online Classes

Join colleagues from around the globe in an online class designed specifically for boys' educators at all career stages. Engage on your own, flexible timetable. You can choose when you complete the four hours of weekly coursework to fit best in your schedule.

April 13 – May 3, 2026

The Resilient Boy: Skills for Success in School and Beyond

IBSC Member School Story: A Culture of Brotherhood

At Welham Boys' School (India), connectedness grows through everyday life. It is seen in small circles of conversation, on the sports field, and in the easy laughter that bridges age groups. Younger boys feel supported by seniors who listen, include, and guide them, creating a culture rooted in brotherhood rather than just formal systems. From the moment they join, boys are welcomed into a community where every voice matters. House traditions, group activities, and open spaces for dialogue encourage them to mix across grades and backgrounds. Seniors model empathy and responsibility; juniors bring curiosity and energy. These daily interactions gradually build trust, respect, and a strong sense of belonging. Boys naturally look out for one another, offering help, encouragement, and reassurance during both successes and setbacks. This everyday culture of care builds genuine friendships and deep bonds. In these simple moments, our school nurtures not just students but a lifelong community of brothers. Learn more.

Hire Your Ideal Candidate

Let IBSC help you find your ideal candidate who shares your passion and expertise for educating boys. IBSC members get exclusive, free access to post job openings on the Career Postings page.

Glimpse the many wonderful ways IBSC schools champion at our Member School Stories web page. We'd like to high a link to jahicki@theibsc.org showcasing an innovative ide your school special. Links to videos, web pages, presentati

Thank you.

Get more details.

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