

# ‘Should I choose a girls’ school?’ Your questions answered by the experts

What the Girls’ Schools Association doesn’t know about girls’ education isn’t worth knowing! So we’ve put Muddy readers’ questions to the top GSA school Heads – from bullying to boys, sport to gender.

**Q:** Shouldn’t girls’ schools do more to create, promote, support and finance young female entrepreneurs? Only 32% of women own their own businesses (me being one of them). I’m shocked how under-represented this kind of teaching is. I’d like to send my daughter to a girls’ school that’s really strong in this aspect if you can advise.

**A:** Lucy Elphinstone, Head at **Francis Holland School, Sloane Square, London:**

Over the last decade, the landscape of education has been transformed, and over the next decade we will see it transform again. In a fast-changing technological world, where work is increasingly global, mobile and conceptual as automation, machine learning and AI progress, we have an economy that increasingly values qualities such as creativity, communication and problem-solving.



Though I agree with you that many schools, both co-ed and single sex, aren’t giving business and entrepreneurialism the attention it deserves, you will find some that live and breathe these values, and we’re one of them! Academic success for us now falls into the slipstream of a focus on innovative thinking and problem-solving, with creativity and enterprise the cornerstones of our ethos. Our pioneering Creative Enterprise programme, recipient of two national awards in 2021, is embedded in the curriculum from the day girls begin at FHS.

‘Do it scared’, our pupils are constantly urged, with an emphasis on creativity, curiosity and courage – from taking part in Peter Jones’ *Tycoon in Schools* programme or joining in our TIPS Week (Thinking Innovatively and Problem Solving, an alternative to a traditional exam week for Years 7-8), to Sixth Former TEDx talks and a £10,000 Alumni Business Enterprise Award.

As this new programme gathers momentum and is guided by feedback from aspirational young women, the focus is continuously changing as we evaluate the ever-evolving landscape of the working world. However, the one constant is that we are riding a wave of entrepreneurial enthusiasm from girls of all ages at our school.