



Autumn/Winter 2023

Education newsletter

Introduction

Welcome to the Autumn/Winter edition of Education Matters.

The last few months have been somewhat turbulent for our industry, mainly as a result of the investigation into the use of reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) in school buildings. Identified in over 570 schools across the country, a property containing RAAC has a greater risk of failure and collapse. [Amanda Timcke](#) gives advice on how to proceed with investigations and notifying the Department for Education, where relevant.

Another hot topic is AI and the impact it is having on the workforce. [Charlotte Sloan](#) discusses the advantages, limitations and pitfalls of AI, specifically for workforce issues. As the uptake in AI increases, it is important to carefully consider and implement legislation to protect the humans in these roles.

[Jennifer Marley](#) and [Liz Brownsell](#) share their opinion on mega multi-academy trusts (MATs) becoming more prevalent as a means for school collaboration. Whilst the Department for Education has dropped the target to have all maintained schools in a MAT by 2030, we still very much see this as the direction of travel.

Finally, [Liz Brownsell](#) discusses the debate about charitable status for independent schools, as a result of the Labour Party pledge to remove tax concessions for independent schools in a bid to raise funds for state education. In this article, we examine the threat to charitable status, charitable tax reliefs and VAT exemption, and also outline some potential solutions for independent schools.

I hope you find this edition of Education Matters useful, if you have any questions or need advice about any of the topics covered, please do get in contact with me or a member of our [Education Team](#).



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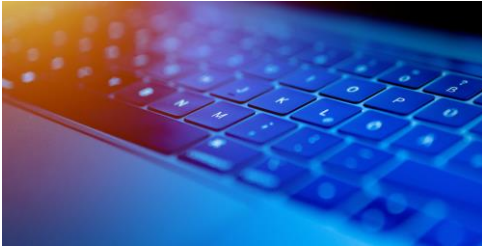
Featured articles

The liability of education buildings

[Amanda Timcke](#) discusses the ongoing concerns around RAAC and what the next steps are.

[Read more →](#)





Keeping the human in HR

[Charlotte Sloan](#) explores the potential advantages of AI and the impact on HR teams.

[Read more →](#)

School collaboration - are mega MATs the future?

[Jennifer Marley](#) and [Liz Brownsell](#) discuss types of school collaborations and if MATs are the solution.

[Read more →](#)



Independent schools: the threat to charitable status and VAT exemption

[Liz Brownsell](#) shares her thoughts on the potential threat to independent schools if charitable status and VAT exemption is scrapped under a Labour Government.

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