# The academic year 2025–2026
Newsletter

ANDERSON education
LEADING UK BOARDING SCHOOL SPECIALIST SINCE 1999

## Introduction and welcome

Welcome to our academic year 2025–2026 end of year newsletter and what a year it has been! We have seen an increase in student placements and continued success at our exhibitions in the Gulf and for British Forces. We are delighted to share with you some of the key achievements for the year.

***The Anderson Education Team – Sara, Lucy, Jackie, Jane, Nikki, Sarah, Jen, Erica, Sam, Sylvie, Bisayo and Suzy.***

## Reflections on our year

**During the academic year, we placed students in 64 boarding schools from 20 different countries:** Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belgium, Germany, India, Kosovo, Kuwait, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Nigeria, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Switzerland, UAE, UK, Ukraine and USA.

Percentage of placements by key markets: Middle East 51%, British Forces 17%, worldwide 22%.

## British Forces

Our **UK Boarding School Exhibitions for British Forces** families are extremely popular with schools and places are offered in September for the calendar year ahead.

45 schools had the opportunity to join us at events on garrisons in Tidworth and Aldershot, taking schools to the heart of the Forces community. In the next academic year we will be introducing new initiatives to bring your schools closer to the Forces communities, through school representation and information mornings, as well as potential in Cyprus, Brunei and RAF bases.

During this academic year, 42% of our Forces placements were generated by schools attending the UK Boarding School Exhibition – British Forces.

## Service Children in Boarding and Independent Schools Learning Hub

Anderson Education have always recognised the unique circumstances of Service family life and the important role that boarding schools can play in providing continuity, stability and support for Service children.

While significant work has been undertaken nationally to better understand and support Service children, the independent sector and boarding perspectives have often been underrepresented within the wider evidence base and professional conversation.

In response to recognising that gap, we have established the **Service Children in Boarding and Independent Schools Learning Hub,** bringing together colleagues from across the independent sector to explore shared themes, exchange insight and contribute to a growing understanding of Service children's experiences.

We are delighted to be developing this work in partnership with the Service Children's Progression Alliance (SCiP), creating opportunities for collaboration between schools and the wider national network supporting Service children and their families.

## UK Boarding School Exhibitions, Dubai

In February 2026 we hosted our **30th** UK Boarding School Exhibition in Dubai, feedback from both schools and visiting families was excellent.

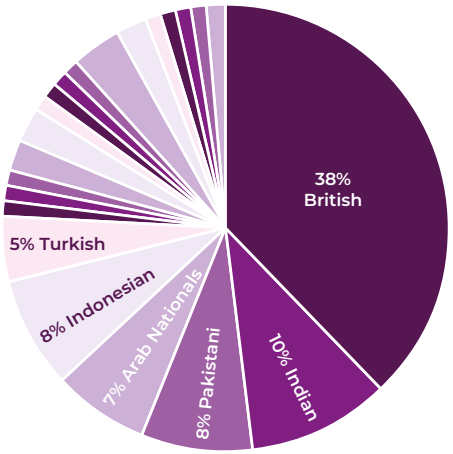
It is now a well-established event; families appreciate that schools have come to the UAE and take advantage of the opportunity to start their research and learn more about a boarding education.

Families expressed concern about recent changes by the Ministry of Education: Arabic language and Islamic Studies are now compulsory for all 14-year-old students, increasing in 2027 to 1 hour per day and the shorter school day on a Friday in line with the change in prayer time.

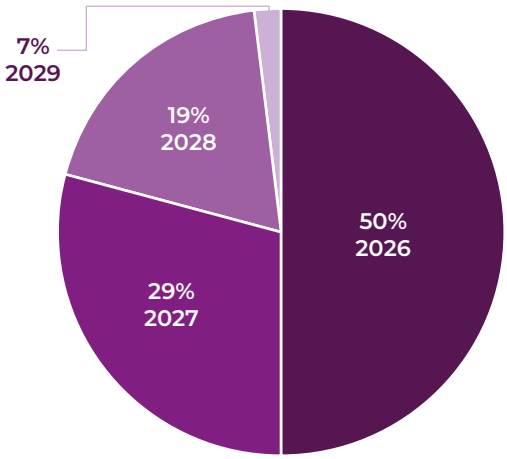
There are limited places available for our UK Boarding School Exhibition, Dubai on 14 November and to note, our Spring event has moved from February to 20 March due to Ramadan and Eid.

## 2025–2026 exhibition visitors – Middle East

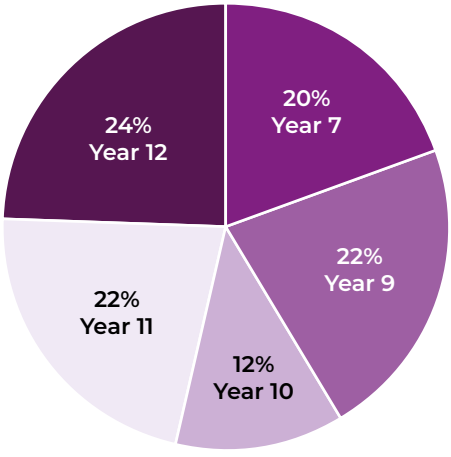
### Visitors by nationality:




### Visitors by proposed year of entry:




### Visitors by proposed year group of entry:




## UK Boarding School Exhibitions, Saudi Arabia

Anderson Education were the first and are the only Education Consultancy offering events in Riyadh and Eastern Province, Saudi Arabia.

It is a fast paced, dynamic and challenging environment to work in, we have committed to the market and through comprehensive research and our representatives in-country we now have a better understanding of the people, culture and aims of Vision 2030.

The Eastern Province, home to the oil industry and with a causeway to connect Bahrain, continues to be a busy and successful exhibition venue.

## Takatuf Scholarship Programme, Oman

After our successful introduction of 10 schools to the Government of Oman Scholarship Programme, we look forward to following the progress of the nine scholars as they embark on their two year Sixth Form in a UK boarding school, from September 2025.

## School directories

The **19th edition** of the **UK Schools Directory, Middle East & Worldwide** (view here) features 70 schools and it is distributed throughout the Gulf and at our exhibitions, information days and the many events that we sponsor.

The **23rd edition** of the **UK Schools Directory for British Forces & FCDO** (view here) features over 95 schools, tips and advice for families and first-hand experiences from Forces students.

## Introduction of our QR activated visitor registration system

Our new system was greeted by enthusiasm and approval by both schools and visitors and brings us bang up to date! Each visitor arrives at our events with their own personal QR code; the Anderson team are able to scan them on arrival, making registration quick and easy.

In addition, schools are also able to scan the code for each family they speak with, ensuring they have all the correct contact details straight away. With this new system we have been able to do away with misheard names and incorrect email addresses and allow schools the pleasure of speaking with a family without the worry trying to reread the details they jotted down quickly at a later date.

We welcome feedback from schools who have used the system at our exhibitions in order to ensure it is an efficient experience for both schools and visitors.

## Sponsorships and working in the community

Sponsoring youth sport, art and education related activities and clubs is an important way for Anderson Education to support local communities and raise awareness of UK boarding schools, our exhibitions and the free impartial advice and guidance we offer families.

Through our in-country representatives (Sarah in the UAE, Bisayo in Riyadh, Suzy in Eastern Province KSA and Sylvie in Bahrain) we have supported and sponsored over 30 clubs across the Gulf.

## Connect with us

Follow us for up-to-date events

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