

Letters: Private schools should be abolished



I agree with Tim Lott (Opinion, 22 April) that private schools should be abolished. If fee-paying schools were abolished, just think of the efforts that would be made by the parents of children transferring to the state sector to ensure that all schools were up to the mark. State schools across the country would benefit enormously from the skills, the cultural capital and the money of such families.

It's a move that the Finnish government had the foresight to effect back in the 1970s. 7-1

Fiona Carnie

European Forum for Freedom in Education

Two heads of private schools justify their continued existence by saying that they give bursaries to those who would otherwise be unable to pay their extortionate fees (Letters, 25 April). Both suggest that this would facilitate social mobility. What they do not tell us is that such bursaries are by competitive "scholarship" selection. They are robbing "clever" children from the local schools. 7-2

J Brian Harrison-Jennings

Huddersfield, West Yorkshire

Are we to take at face value the claim that private schools "support" the state sector by offering bursaries? Or might we inquire as to precisely which pupils benefit from this selfless largesse?

Are bursaries directed purely to the academically bright or are they also offered to troubled kids at risk of exclusion? 7-3

Alistair Richardson

Stirling

theguardian.com, 2017