

## OPEN UP

Open days are often the best way of scoping out potential schools to see which may be the best fit for your child. But what questions should you be asking staff? We ask four of Yorkshire's most successful schools



### WHAT CAN WE EXPECT?

Headmaster of Aysgarth Prep School, Rob Morse, believes parents should use open days as a chance to discover the kind of character his school helps to nurture.

'Given that children are the most important thing in the world to parents, it's extraordinary to think that many children end up at their school simply because it is the closest to home,' says Rob. 'When moving house, purchasing a car or a new gadget, we spend hours, days, months and even years researching these products. We should spend considerably more time investigating the schools that will nurture our children through their childhood and teenage years.'

'But it is not until a parent visits the school, spends time in the school and meets the pupils and staff that they can really develop a true understanding of what the school has to offer. When it comes to meeting the Head, there are a myriad of questions to ask and, of course, much will depend upon the age of your children, your prior knowledge of the school and your own views on education.'

'The questions below are merely suggestions, but they will certainly help you to establish the Headteacher's vision of their school: how they view the pupils in their care, how they deal with problems, and what they love most about their job.'

### Top Questions

- How would you describe a typical child from your school?
- How does the school react when things do not go according to plan? (For instance, when children are unkind to each other, when rules are broken or when bullying occurs).
- What sets your school apart?

