

**Scottish Council of Independent Schools (SCIS)
Media Release - 17 November 2011**

Four more independent schools pass the Charity Test - all twelve tested have now successfully demonstrated their public benefit

Scottish Council of Independent School (SCIS) is delighted that Hutchesons' Grammar School, Lomond School, Merchiston Castle School and St Leonards School have met the charity test and demonstrated their public benefit with the judgment being approved by the Board of the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR).

In October 2008, OSCR gave the four schools a year to draw up plans indicating how they would meet the public benefit requirements of the Charity Test. Those plans were approved in November 2009 and the schools were given two years to implement them.

Throughout the process, SCIS has remained confident that the four schools would pass the test and that this would be replicated across the independent schools sector. All twelve independent schools that have been reviewed by OSCR so far (listed below) have been able to demonstrate their charitable purposes and their commitment to public benefit.

1. Donaldson's, Linlithgow
2. George Heriot's School, Edinburgh
3. Glasgow Steiner School
4. Gordonstoun School, Moray
5. High School of Dundee
6. Hutchesons' Grammar School, Glasgow
7. Lomond School, Helensburgh
8. Merchiston Castle School, Edinburgh
9. Regius School, Edinburgh
10. St Aloysius' College, Glasgow
11. St Leonard's School, St Andrews
12. St Mary's Music School, Edinburgh

John Edward, Director of SCIS, said, "When the schools were given directions in 2008 on meeting the test, SCIS said that it was confident that they would be able to retain their charitable status, and that has proved to be the case. The four schools, along with those that have already been tested, make a significant contribution, not only to education in Scotland, but to their wider communities. SCIS has worked with member schools to broaden understanding of the Charity Test and to help them demonstrate their public benefit."

SCIS will now be seeking further detailed guidance from the Charity Regulator about its expectations of independent schools in demonstrating their commitment to public benefit.

Ends

For further information please contact John Edward or Sarah Randell on 0131 556 2316.