



# AMCIS

Admissions, Marketing and Communications  
in Independent Schools



## AMCIS DIPLOMA IN SCHOOLS' MARKETING

Widely Recognised • Tailor Made • School Specific • Practical Application

[WWW.AMCIS.CO.UK](http://WWW.AMCIS.CO.UK)

# WIDELY RECOGNISED AS THE LEADING QUALIFICATION IN INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS MARKETING

EXPERT FEEDBACK AND  
ANALYSIS ON ASSIGNMENTS  
THAT ARE TAILOR MADE AND  
SCHOOL-SPECIFIC

MIX OF MARKETING  
THEORY AND PRACTICAL  
APPLICATION

## PART ONE

A two-day immersive, online course on marketing strategy and tactics

## PART TWO

Candidates complete three online workshops from a choice of sector-specific topics and content

The highly-regarded **AMCIS DIPLOMA IN SCHOOLS' MARKETING** is recognised by independent schools as the only sector-specific qualification for marketing personnel.

As the sector has evolved, so has the role of marketing in schools, and as such the Diploma in Schools' Marketing delivers the most cutting edge, relevant, informative and up-to-date course for those looking to gain experience and knowledge of marketing in the independent schools sector today.

The Diploma is designed to equip marketing personnel with an in-depth understanding of the process and provide a framework within which to effectively manage the success of their school's marketing programme. It is also an opportunity for them to assess their own skill for the role and take time out reflect on current practice while examining new ideas and approaches.

The Diploma is suitable not only for those new to the marketing role, but also those who have taken on an increased marketing responsibility and need to expand their knowledge and develop their skills. For those with more experience, the course allows time to reflect on and consolidate knowledge and skills and ultimately gain a formal qualification.

**As the Diploma course specifically focuses on the marketing activity of UK-based day/boarding independent schools, it is not suitable for those in international schools.**

**Confidentiality is a high priority for AMCIS and assignment and delegate confidentiality will be maintained at all times.**

# PART 1: MARKETING STRATEGY AND TACTICS

Wednesday 14 & Thursday 15 October 2026 – Online

## THE OBJECTIVE

Candidates will learn both the conceptual frameworks and practical techniques necessary for constructing a creative and competitive marketing audit and plan for their school.

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## COURSE STRUCTURE

A two-day course with a school-based assignment to be completed and assessed following the course.

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## TRAINING METHODS

Online learning, with discussion and team exercises alongside real-life case studies.

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## THE VENUE

Online via the Zoom Meetings platform.

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## YOUR ASSIGNMENT

Candidates will be given nine weeks to complete an assignment allowing them to show that they can successfully implement the knowledge they have learnt on the course. The assignment will involve an internal audit and analysis of the candidates own school situation. As a general guide, we suggest that this assignment should consist of between 2,000 words and 5,000 words, which is likely to require between 8 and 20 pages. All aspects of the assignment will be discussed during the course. Course directors will mark your assignment and provide useful feedback.

**The assignment must be submitted by the deadline, in order that it is guaranteed to be marked and graded and be able to be used towards the Diploma in Schools' Marketing.**

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## COURSE DIRECTOR

Heather Styche-Patel, CEO, RSAcademics Ltd

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## THE COST

**Full Diploma:** £1110 (AMCIS member) £1,780 (non-member)

**Part One:** £510 (AMCIS member) £600 (non-member)

**Part Two:** £850 (AMCIS member) £930 (non-member)

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# PART 1: COURSE CONTENT

**DAY 1: WEDNESDAY 14 OCTOBER 2026**

**DAY 2: THURSDAY 15 OCTOBER 2026**

- Review of Key Concepts
  - What is marketing
  - Definitions of marketing
  - Distinctive features of the schools' market
- Marketing Planning – A Recommended Approach and Structure
  - Structuring the marketing plan
  - Understanding the planning process
- Assessing the Current Situation – The Internal Audit
  - How to conduct an audit
  - Case study exercise
- Assessing the Current Situation – The External Audit
  - Understanding the business environment
  - Analysing your catchment area
  - Exploring trends
  - Competitor behaviour
- Market Research
  - Research techniques
  - Principles of good research
  - Writing a research brief
- SWOT Analysis and Setting Objectives
  - Principles of SWOT (or “SWEET” analysis)
  - Setting marketing aims and objectives



## PLEASE NOTE

The Diploma should be completed in order, Part 1 first followed by Part 2 as Part 2 builds on the knowledge gained in Part 1.

Part 1 and Part 2 must be completed in their entirety (including submission and passing of the relevant assignments), within TWO academic years, to be awarded with the Diploma in Schools' Marketing.

## PART 2: WORKSHOPS

It is widely recognised that the role of marketing in the independent schools sector is far reaching, and the skills and expertise required will often depend on the make-up of the marketing department. As a result, Part Two of the Diploma in Schools' Marketing is structured to allow delegates to focus on those specific areas which are of key interest to them and their school.

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### COURSE STRUCTURE

Candidates will be required to select and attend three workshops from the following six, and to complete the necessary assignment for each of their three chosen workshops:

- Implementing a Marketing Brand – Wednesday 6 January 2027
  - Digital Marketing – Thursday 7 January 2027
  - Impactful Copywriting – Wednesday 10 March 2027
  - Personal Effectiveness – Thursday 11 March 2027
  - Marketing Strategy Research – Wednesday 2 June 2027
  - Stakeholder Communications – Thursday 3 June 2027
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### YOUR ASSIGNMENT

Candidates will be given six weeks to submit each workshop assignment. Previous successful candidates have indicated that an assignment takes approximately eight hours to complete. All aspects of the assignment will be discussed during the workshop. Course directors will mark your assignment and provide useful feedback.

**The assignments must be submitted by the deadlines, in order that they are guaranteed to be marked and graded and be able to be used towards the Diploma in Schools' Marketing.**

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### THE VENUE

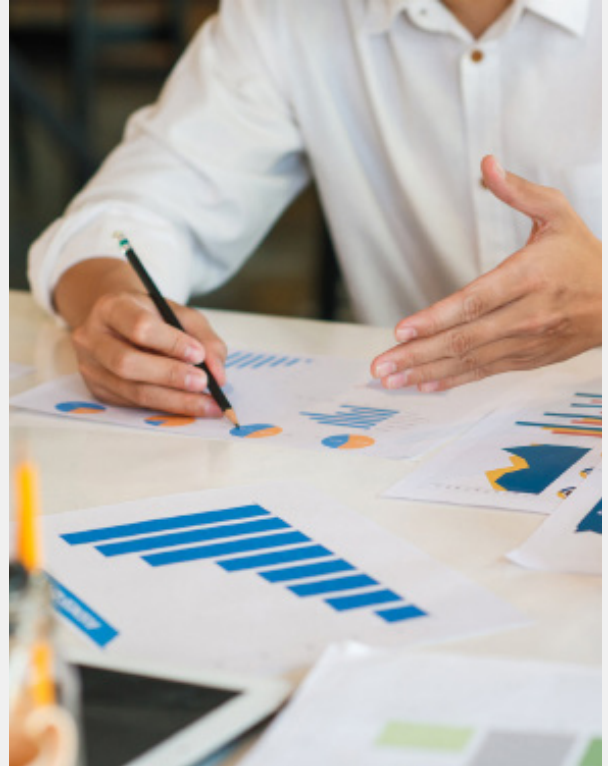
Online via the Zoom Meetings platform

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# WORKSHOP CONTENT

## IMPLEMENTING A MARKETING BRAND

- How to assess your school brand identity – practical tips and procedures to assess your own school brand identity
- Define a brand identity in 10/20 words – an exercise to define the definitions of school brand identity, brand personality and brand image
- Creating your distinctive school brand
  - Reviewing your communications
  - Competitor research
  - Understanding your verbal identity
  - Working with agencies
- Choosing a partner
  - Organising a design pitch
  - Assessing agencies – the good and the bad!
- Planning implementation
  - Conducting a photography and signage audit
  - Developing an implementation programme, timescales and process
  - Phased implementation
- Brand guidelines
  - Writing a brief
  - Managing implementation



**DURATION:** One day workshop

**COURSE DIRECTORS:** Mark Hooper, Creative Director and Alastair

Poole, Strategic Director, Quantock

# WORKSHOP CONTENT

## DIGITAL MARKETING

### ■ Digital platforms explored

- o Update on the key social media sites
- o Positives and negatives of the platforms

### ■ Digital advertising

- o Understanding paid advertising; reviewing and refining tips
- o SEO, Google Analytics and social media insights explained

### ■ Content marketing strategy

- o What is a content strategy and why is it important?
- o How to create, deliver and manage content
- o Measuring results

### ■ Digital marketing strategy

- o Update on the digital landscape
- o How to create a digital marketing plan
- o Understanding how digital marketing strategy fits in the bigger picture

**DURATION:** One day workshop

**COURSE DIRECTOR:** Emma Fell, Director, Attenger Digital



# WORKSHOP CONTENT

## IMPACTFUL COPYWRITING

- All delegates attending this course are asked to bring a tablet or laptop and the following pieces of copy / writing to the course:

- o A piece of writing of which they are proud
- o A piece of writing they would like to improve
- o A piece of writing they have in mind that they will require for the future

- Preparing to write

- o Introductions
- o Verbal identity
- o Key messages
- o Establishing the fundamentals

- Effective writing techniques

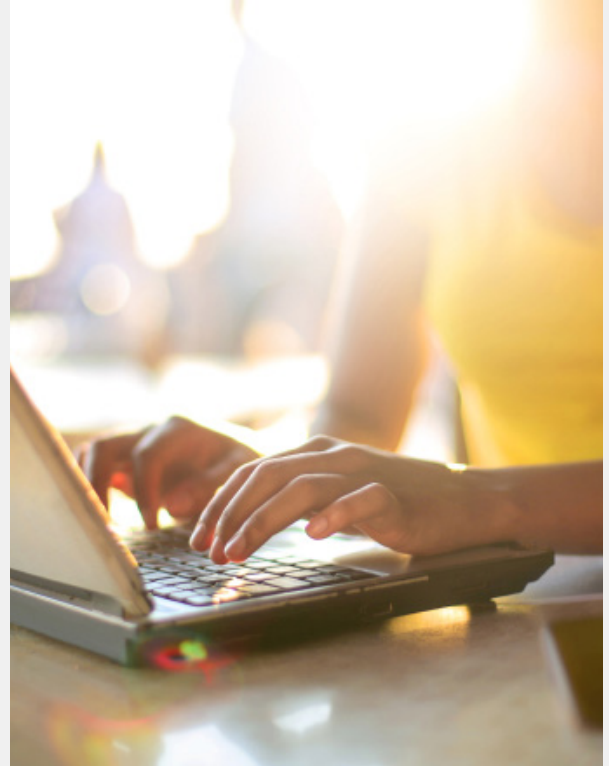
- o Difference between effective and persuasive
- o Key skills and tips

- Editing

- o The art of editing
- o Common mistakes to avoid
- o Practical tips and checklists

**DURATION:** One day workshop

**COURSE DIRECTOR:** Sian Jones, Director, Sian Jones Consulting



# WORKSHOP CONTENT

## PERSONAL EFFECTIVENESS

### ■ Influential report writing

- o Writing concise and relevant reports
- o Constructing a coherent argument
- o Influencing and positively shaping stakeholder thinking

### ■ Maximising your presentation skills

- o Improving your overall performance – tips and strategies
- o Effective preparation for presentations

### ■ Effective time management

- o Practical tips to maximise your effectiveness during working hours

### ■ Stress management

- o Recognising stress – in yourself and others
- o Techniques to manage and reduce stress levels

### ■ Handling difficult situations

- o How to challenge effectively
- o Honing negotiation skills
- o Building a rapport – tips and strategies

**DURATION:** One day workshop

**COURSE DIRECTOR:** Sian Jones, Director, Sian Jones Consulting



# WORKSHOP CONTENT

## MARKETING STRATEGY RESEARCH

- Market research – an introduction
  - Understanding market research
  - The role of market research
  - Desk research – how to get started
- Research beyond your desk
  - The role of specialist research
  - Expert interviews
  - Postcode and demographic analysis
- Researching key stakeholders
  - Who to research
  - What to find out and when?
  - Asking the right questions
- Finding the right methodology
- Different ways to research • Understanding when to use which approach

**DURATION:** One day workshop

**COURSE DIRECTORS:** Heather Styche-Patel, CEO, RSAcademics Ltd



# WORKSHOP CONTENT

## STAKEHOLDER COMMUNICATIONS

### ■ Stakeholder analysis overview

- o Identifying the key stakeholders
- o 'Stakeholder Analysis Grid' – how to use it

### ■ Understanding your stakeholders through research

- o Focus groups
- o Surveys
- o Data insight

### ■ Building trust with your stakeholders

- o How to engage senior management, governors and staff
- o Working with families within your parental body
- o Involving pupils – ideas and suggestions

### ■ Attracting disengaged stakeholders

- o Working with local communities and business
- o Alumni programmes – an overview
- o Local and national media relations
- o Creating long term relationships

### ■ Crisis management

- o Building trust quickly
- o Managing and sharing information to minimise the impact

### ■ Creating your own stakeholder engagement plan

- o Learning from best practice case studies
- o How to implement in your school

**DURATION:** One day workshop

**COURSE DIRECTOR:** Rachel Hadley-Leonard, Consultant, RHL Consulting



# CONTACT

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