



The Educational Backgrounds of Leading Journalists

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Foreword by Sir Peter Lampl

In a number of recent studies the Sutton Trust has highlighted the predominance of those from private schools in the country's leading and high profile professions¹. In law, we found that almost 70% of barristers in the top chambers had attended fee-paying schools, and, more worryingly, that the young partners in so called 'magic circle' law firms were now more likely than their equivalents of 20 years ago to have been independently-educated. In politics, we showed that one third of MPs had attended independent schools, and this rose to 42% among those holding most power in the main political parties.

Now, with this study, we have found that leading news and current affairs journalists – those figures who are so central in shaping public opinion and national debate – are more likely than not to have been to independent schools which educate just 7% of the population. Of the top 100 journalists in 2006, 54% were independently educated an increase from 49% in 1986. Not only does this say something about the state of our education system, but it also raises questions about the nature of the media's relationship with society: is it healthy that those who are most influential in determining and interpreting the news agenda have educational backgrounds that are so different to the vast majority of the population?

What is clear is that an independent school education offers a tremendous boost to the life chances of young people, making it more likely that they will attain highly in school exams, attend the country's leading universities and gain access to the highest and most prestigious professions. It is also clear that the opportunities for bright children from non-privileged homes are both nowhere near as good as they should be and have declined in recent decades, meaning that the gulf between the state and private sectors is as wide now as it has ever been.

The education system of forty years ago was not perfect, but the grammar and direct grant schools at least offered the chance for some of those from non-privileged backgrounds to access educational opportunities as excellent as those enjoyed by children from affluent homes. Indeed, it is telling that the majority of the 51% of leading journalists in 1986 who went to state schools attended grammar schools. The representation of the maintained sector has declined since 1986, and in 2006 just 14% of the leading figures in journalism had been to comprehensive schools, which now educate almost 90% of children. My fear is that in another 20 years the chances of those from non affluent homes to reach the very highest strata of society – including the top of the media – will have declined still further.

As the survey of recruitment practices in the news media shows, there is much more that the journalism profession needs to do to make sure the most talented can get a foothold on the ladder and rise up the ranks, regardless of their background.

With increasing financial hardship during the early stages of careers, the signs are that the national news media will become even more dominated by those from privileged backgrounds in the future. For a profession that has done much to uncover the inequalities elsewhere in society, this prompts some awkward questions. Is news coverage preoccupied with the issues and interests of the social elite that journalists represent? Should the profession not better reflect the broader social make-up of the audiences it serves?

¹ See 'The Educational Backgrounds of the UK's top Solicitors, Barristers and Judges' and 'The Educational Backgrounds of Members of the House of Commons and House of Lords', both at www.suttontrust.com.

For our part, the Sutton Trust is working to address educational inequity through early years schemes, school and university projects, research, outreach initiatives, and the Open Access scheme at The Belvedere School in Liverpool. It is in all our interests to ensure the abilities of the many able young people in state schools, particularly those from lower social classes and in poor areas, are not wasted.

Finally, I am grateful to Lee Elliot Major, news editor of the Times Higher Education Supplement for leading this research and to all those journalists who co-operated with him.

Sir Peter Lampl

Chairman, The Sutton Trust

June 2006

Executive Summary

- Over half (54%) of the country's leading news journalists were educated in private schools, which account for 7% of the school population as a whole.
- The proportion of the 'top 100' journalists in news and current affairs who come from independent schools has increased by five percentage points in the last 20 years, from 49% to 54% .
- In 1986 over two fifths (44%) of national newspaper editors, columnists, and leading broadcast editors and news presenters came from grammar schools; by 2006, however, this had fallen to 33%.
- In 2006 14% of journalists who could be considered to be among the most influential in the country were educated at comprehensive schools, up from 6% in 1986.
- Overall 45% of the leading journalists in 2006 – or 56% of those who went to university - attended Oxbridge. This is slightly lower than in 1986, when the equivalent figures were 52% of the total, and 67% of university graduates.
- Just under two fifths (37%) of the top journalists in 2006 who went to university graduated from one institution, Oxford (40% in 1986).
- Seven in ten (72%) journalists in 2006 who went to university attended one of the country's 13 'Sutton Trust' leading universities – those which have consistently been ranked top when taking the average of major league tables.²
- The proportion of women among the top 100 news journalists increased from 10 per cent in 1986 to 18 per cent in 2006.
- A separate survey of leading journalists and editors suggests that the latest new recruits to the national news media are even more likely to come from privileged backgrounds than those from previous generations.
- Reasons for this range from: low pay and insecurity at junior levels; the high costs of living in London; the increasing costs of postgraduate courses; a bias towards those with family or personal connections within the industry amid a largely informal but highly competitive recruitment process; and finally, the stronger skills and attributes exhibited at an earlier age by those from private schools.

² The 13 universities are: Birmingham, Bristol, Cambridge, Durham, Edinburgh, Imperial, LSE, Nottingham, Oxford, St Andrew's, UCL, Warwick, York.

Method & Introduction

The 100 top news journalists

Who are the country's 100 top journalists working in news and current affairs? Ask any journalist and you will receive a different answer each time. But it is a question we had to consider in order to compare the educational backgrounds of the current batch of leading journalists with those of a generation before.

Lists of the most powerful figures in the media have been produced, comprising mainly the executives (and editors) in charge of the commercial activities of the media – controlling the budgets and policies that shape the industry. Others meanwhile have attempted lists of the 'all time greats' of Fleet Street.

But we wanted to create a list of reporters, presenters and editors still plying their trade, and select those considered to be the most influential news and current affairs journalists across both broadcast and print media at one given time.

After consulting a number of senior figures¹ across the sector we came up with a list of 100 names, comprised of four categories of journalists: newspaper editors, newspaper columnists, broadcast presenters, and broadcast editors. These four groups are critical in shaping the news stories presented to the public through newspapers, radio and TV.

As with any such list of this kind, the selection will provoke many different opinions about who should or should not have been included. But the point for this study was to establish a credible top 100 that could provide comparisons over time. Another point to bear in mind is the people in top positions in the media are constantly changing. The names on the top 100 list are those for one point of time -- early 2006 and early 1986.

The four categories of journalists are:

- First, editors of national newspapers and news weeklies – ultimately in charge of the editorial direction and content of publications that produce the stories subsequently aired by TV and radio news.
- Second, top national newspaper columnists—the elite and hugely influential opinion formers who set the agenda and tone for national debates.
- Third, presenters of TV and radio news and current affairs programmes, the key interpreters who communicate the news to the nation.
- Fourth, broadcast news editors and producers, the journalists behind the TV cameras who have the power to decide the stories that are given most prominence, and how they are presented.

The full top 100 lists can be found in Appendix 1.

1. Special thanks to Bill Hagerty, editor of the British Journalism Review for his suggestions.

The changing face of journalism

To compare the changing backgrounds of journalists, we compiled two top 100 lists: one for 2006 and one for 1986. These comprised as much as possible those journalists in equivalent or similar roles for each year. However, the lists do reflect the changing nature of the news and current affairs in the UK.

By far the organization with most entries for both years is the BBC, still the country's single biggest cultural force, despite a falling share of the nation's listeners and viewers. Sky news however only appears in the 2006 list; it did not exist 20 years previously. Some journalists argued that newspaper columnists and the BBC Radio 4's Today programme have become more influential over the last two decades. Others pointed out that the number of TV current affairs programmes have reduced dramatically over these years. However we elected to keep the proportions of different types of journalists broadly similar for both lists.

The lists also do not reflect more recent news trends. There are no entries for leading journalists from online news operations or 24 hour TV news programmes for example. We also included only those figures with a truly UK wide reach.

A few names appear on both 1986 and 2006 lists -- a testament to the staying power of a select number of highly influential news journalists. This enduring news elite includes the newspaper columnist Simon Jenkins, and the three doyens of broadcast news, David Dimbleby, Jeremy Paxman, and John Humphrys.

But these are the fortunate few. News and current affairs is a constantly changing sector. Not one newspaper or TV editor in post in 1986 is still in place 20 years on.

Gathering information on educational backgrounds

School and university backgrounds were gathered by contacting the journalists themselves or using official sources such as 'Who's Who', or profiles on websites and in publications. Schools were then classified as comprehensive, grammar or private at the time of entry to the school.

Universities meanwhile were classified into three categories: Oxbridge; the Sutton Trust top 13; and other universities. A small proportion of both schools and universities were based outside the UK, and classified as international.

Wider survey

We also attempted a broader survey of the educational backgrounds of journalists, to see if the same trends existed for the sector as a whole, and particularly for those entering the trade. This proved difficult. The vast majority of editors said they did not collect such information, and were unwilling to devote resources to survey their staff.

Likewise the BBC, a publicly funded body, said compiling such information would take up too much time and money – in response to a request under Freedom of Information laws. Until the BBC agrees to divulge such information, the educational (and social) profile of the thousands of journalists it employs will remain unknown and unmonitored.

The information gathered from this wider survey, however, suggests that over two fifths (43%) of senior newspaper journalists have been privately-educated, and a quarter have been educated in grammar schools.

Survey into recruitment

The poor responses to the wider survey also provided a useful insight into the informal approach to most recruitment in news journalism. And this fed into the third aspect of the study: an exploration of the recruitment process in the news media. We asked editors, managing editors, producers, course directors, media commentators, journalism students, graduate trainees, young and experienced journalists for information and views on how recruitment works. A consistent picture emerged. The systematic disadvantages for those from less privileged backgrounds may go some way to explain why the educational backgrounds of leading figures in journalism are so skewed towards private schools and Oxbridge.

Results: Educational Backgrounds

School types

Educational reforms of the post war period have had a considerable effect on the school backgrounds of leading journalists.

Table 1: School backgrounds of leading journalists

	1986		2006	
	number	% of total	number	% of total
State	48	51%	44	46%
- <i>Grammar</i>	42	44%	31	32.5%
- <i>Comp</i>	6	6%	13	13.5%
Independent	47	49%	51	54%
Total	95*	100%	95*	100%

* Excludes 5 journalists in each sample educated outside the UK

As can be seen from the above table, a grammar school education was the launch pad for many who subsequently pursued a successful career in journalism. Over two fifths of the leading figures in 1986 had attended selective state schools. These included some of the most famous journalists of their generation: Michael Parkinson, Peter Sissons, Richard Littlejohn and Kelvin MacKenzie. But within a generation the proportion of top journalists from grammar schools had dropped significantly, with just under a third of the top journalists in the 2006 list having attended a grammar school.

It is not difficult to see what was behind this decline: the phasing out of grammar schools. From 1965 onwards, the government and local education authorities made it clear that schools should no longer select academically gifted pupils who passed the eleven plus exam, signalling the end the selective system of schooling.

Assuming that the majority of journalists on our lists are aged between 40 and 50 years, the 1986 generation will have started school between 1945 and 1955. The class of 2006 meanwhile will have begun their secondary education between 1965 and 1975. The number of grammar schools in the country fell dramatically in this latter period, and the proportion of pupils educated in grammar schools fell from 20% in the early Sixties to under 5% in 1980.

Many of the journalists attended the top performing grammars – independent schools funded by direct grant by the government. By the late 1970's most of the direct grant grammars had become fully fee-paying. The remainder -- like other LEA funded grammar schools -- became part of the ranks of the new comprehensive schools, catering for pupils of all academic abilities.

The demise of grammars has, unsurprisingly, led to an increase in the proportion of top journalists from comprehensives state schools, from 6% in 1986 to 13.5% in 2006. But, overall, the representation of the state sector has fallen: by 2006 54% of top journalists were educated in the independent sector, five percentage points higher than in 1986. It is noticeable that the majority of the journalists in this group come from 'standard' independent schools--with very few from the oldest and most expensive schools such as Eton and Harrow.

The figures are dramatic nonetheless. Private schools make up 7 per cent of the country's secondary school population. Yet they produce well over half of the country's top news journalists.

University types

Table 2: University backgrounds of leading journalists

	1986			2006		
	number	% of total	% of graduates	number	% of total	% of graduates
UK university	75	78%		79	81%	
- <i>Oxbridge</i>	50	52%	67%	44	45%	56%
- <i>Sutton 13</i>	7	7%	9%	13	13%	16%
- <i>Other</i>	18	19%	24%	22	23%	28%
No university	21	22%		18	19%	
Total	96*	100%		97*	100%	

* Excludes those attending institutions outside UK (n=4 1986; n=3 2006)

Meanwhile, the expansion of universities over this period had little impact on the proportion of graduates amongst the ranks of the top journalists – at around four-fifths in both lists – or the dominance of Oxbridge, which decreased only marginally. Forty-five percent of the leading journalists – or 56% of those who went to university - in 2006 had been to one of these two elite institutions, compared to 52% of the total - or 66% of graduates – in 1986.

One startling fact stands out. Oxford – one university in a sector of over 100 in the UK – accounts for just under a third of leading journalists in both the 1986 and 2006 lists. Perhaps it is unsurprising that Oxford attracts far more attention in the media than any other university, including Cambridge.

A common perception among leading editors we spoke to is that the gap in ability between those from private schools and those from state schools has widened over the last few decades. Young independently educated aspiring journalists, they argued, are just more confident, knowledgeable and self sufficient at an earlier age than their state school counterparts. Perhaps symptomatic of this is the fact that the proportion of privately educated students entering Oxford and Cambridge universities has increased during the last half century – from a third in the 1960s to 47% in recent years. However, there are also other factors, aside from ability and aptitude, which come into play. Other research commissioned by the Trust³ has shown that each year there are around 3,000 state school students who achieve the A level grades necessary to get in to our top universities – including Oxbridge – but who, for a variety of reasons, end up elsewhere.

In our sample top journalists from an independent school background are indeed more likely to have graduated from Oxbridge than their state school counterparts, but this likelihood has remained more or less steady: 66% of Oxbridge graduates in the 1986 list were privately-educated, compared to 61% in 2006.

³ 'The Missing 3,000' and 'State School Admissions to our Leading Universities' at www.sutton.trust.com

Recruitment in the News Media

Our survey of leading journalists

How can it be that attending an independent school can have such an impact on whether you make it as a leading news journalist? This, after all, is a sector that proudly calls itself a 'trade' -- where people are valued for their hard graft, and judged on how they compete in the workplace. Academic or even professional credentials count for nothing when you step into the newsroom.

When asked how they recruit new people, editors will tell you that they are seeking someone they can trust in the role, irrespective of their social background or where they might have been to school. That this is still the prevailing attitude was highlighted by the difficulties in trying to survey the educational backgrounds of a large group of journalists. Many editors replied that they simply would not have seen the CVs of their staff to be able to collect such information.

The following responses from national newspaper editors were typical, pointing to a consistent picture of how recruitment works:

"Senior journalists are often recruited from within the industry and we do not usually ask them for a CV or where they went to school."

"We very rarely advertise for editorial staff. Vacancies are almost invariably filled by people with experience in national newspapers who are already known to us. Some junior positions are filled from the ranks of freelancers who write for us on an occasional basis or who work casual shifts. We receive many applications from young journalists working on local newspapers and we often find good casuals from this source. The interview process is relatively informal."

"The education background of senior journalists is rarely in our files. Senior journalists are often recruited from within the industry and we do not usually ask them for a CV or where they went to school."

Yet without exception every journalist we spoke to agreed that news and current affairs is increasingly becoming a preserve for those from more privileged backgrounds – more often than not those educated in private schools. In particular there is perceived to be a systematic bias at the beginning of careers towards those who are well-off and from the London area.

Five main reasons were cited for this:

- 1. They are more able to survive the low pay and high insecurity endemic at junior levels in news journalism**
- 2. They are more able to afford during the early stages of their career the high living costs of London, where the national news media is based**
- 3. They are more able to afford the fees and living costs needed for postgraduate journalism courses-- increasingly a pre-requisite for careers in journalism**
- 4. They are more likely to have personal or family connections within the industry – a critical advantage in the highly competitive but mostly informal recruitment process**
- 5. They are more likely to exhibit at a much earlier stage the attributes editors are seeking – confidence, self sufficiency, good presentation and networking skills, and knowledge of how news journalism works.**

How recruitment works

Managing editors highlighted four main ways in which posts are filled in news and current affairs:

Awarding full time posts to those working freelance shifts;
Offering jobs following graduate internships and work experience;
Promoting internal staff;
Recruiting leading journalists from rival national media on the basis of personal recommendations.

Getting in early is key

Graduate internships and young reporter positions are key openings for people trying to gain a foothold in the national news media. Opportunities at more senior levels are extremely scarce. Once in, people can stay in organisations for many years. It is still not that unusual for journalists to spend their entire careers working for one newspaper or broadcast organisation.

In national newspapers senior posts are rarely advertised to the outside world. This is because editors rely on their own views on which journalists are up to the job, and the personal recommendations from trusted staff around them. Vacant posts also offer a rare chance for career progression for existing staff.

The following comments from one newspaper managing editor were typical. He said: “Staff positions are rare in national newspapers so advertising positions tends not to be necessary. We will advertise externally very occasionally, mostly internally and sometimes internally across other titles. On many occasions there is the talent within the organisation to fill the post and we would want to encourage staff in that way.”

Even when newspapers do advertise publicly, the odds are stacked against external candidates. Hundreds of applications are received. The problem for editors is that unless you or trusted colleagues have worked with someone, then you will simply not know, for example, how much their writing requires editing, how they work under pressure, or how reliable they will be. If the editor does opt for an outsider it is usually someone with experience on another national organization—itself just as difficult to get onto.

The London effect

Openings at the most junior levels do offer opportunities for those on the outside to get a foot in the door. Competition for internships or junior positions however is intense. The deputy managing editor at the Times for example said: “We would regard a staff position at The Times as akin to getting a place in a top Premiership football team – it’s a coveted position.”

The analogy is a good one. As in football, a few talented elite enjoy success, fame and money, while the vast majority of journalists ply their trade in less glamorous and lower paid jobs. As with managers, editors are quickly shown the exit if there is a dip in performance. And many of today’s star journalists are the offspring of the leading players from a generation before.

But there is one big difference. The national media are based almost entirely in London. Imagine if the same was true of football: a national league in which every team was based in the capital. Local talent currently recruited by teams in Manchester, Liverpool or Newcastle would instead have to move to London. Most would be unable to afford such a move.

The ‘London effect’ has a huge social impact on the recruitment process for news and current affairs journalism, according to the journalists we spoke to. It creates a systematic bias towards those from privileged family backgrounds based in the south. The first few rungs of the journalistic career ladder are a far harder and uncertain climb for those who live in other

parts of the country and do not have the safety net of well-off parents or a home in the London area.

Traditional route into journalism

Many leading editors, reporters and presenters have traditionally cut their teeth in local or regional newspapers and TV networks. On newspapers training comprises a combination of intense short courses covering basics such as short-hand and libel law, and on-the-job learning as a trainee. This is still seen by many editors as the best grounding reporters can receive. Although increasingly reporters on regional papers are also graduates of postgraduate journalism courses. Wages are pitifully low. Trainee positions on regionals can pay as little as 11,000 pounds a year, while junior reporters can earn 19,000 pounds a year.

The only openings on national dailies are provided by freelance shifts, where money is poor and there is no job security. A lucky few will secure that coveted permanent post. But this career leap for journalists based in other parts of the country is particularly treacherous: they are unlikely to be able to afford to live in London for long unless they know someone they can stay with or can be supported by other means.

In broadcast a similar situation exists, although working for the BBC in one of the regions can offer a more secure route to a national position with the BBC.

Graduate schemes

In recent years newspapers and broadcast organisations have established graduate trainee and internship schemes. Competition is extremely tough: applicants typically have a one in 150 chance of success. The Financial Times for example had selected three graduates from 500 applicants in its latest competition. At Sky News meanwhile, six of the 900 applicants secured internships. Sky expects most to have postgraduate journalism degrees. Some graduate schemes will also include bursaries for postgraduate courses.

There was a time when the Times newspaper actually went to Oxford University to recruit its trainees. And the BBC in the distant past had a reputation for recruiting largely from independent schools and Oxbridge.

These days preferences are not made so explicitly. Yet anecdotally at least, there remains a perception that national news organizations still prefer Oxbridge graduates for these schemes. Newspapers were unable to provide a detailed breakdown of current trainees, but estimates for different schemes ranged from 75 per cent to 10 per cent of Oxbridge graduates (these proportions can apply to small numbers).

Salaries for trainees varied from £17,000 to £25,000; there are no guarantees of full employment at the end of the schemes; and for some, there is indeed little chance. Once again a common observation is that the system tends to disadvantage those from outside London without the financial security and help provided by middle class parents.

Postgraduate training

Increasing numbers of young journalists now undertake postgraduate journalism degrees. The courses offer a crucial foot in the door of news organisations through work placements, graduate traineeships, or first jobs. In 1996-97 there were under 400 students on university postgraduate journalism training courses. By 2004-05, there were 5,600. Yet competition for places is intense on the established courses for print journalism - at City, Cardiff, and Sheffield universities. At City for example around 500 apply for 37 places.

Course leaders at City said they did not have the resources to provide a breakdown of the school and university backgrounds of students. But present and former students reported a high contingent of people from Oxbridge (perhaps 40 per cent) and private school backgrounds.

For City in particular, but also for the other courses, it is a costly undertaking for students. Fees of 4,500 a year and living costs (in London) of 10,000, need to be paid for – for graduates already laden with debts. Bursaries are available for only a small minority of students. And in the future years, postgraduates will start courses with even bigger debts as top-up fees for undergraduate courses in England are introduced. One journalist who had interviewed for one postgraduate course said that every successful candidate had said that their parents would be helping them out financially.

Family connections

Family ties remain a powerful force in the newsroom. There are countless examples of sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, partners and former partners who have followed in the footsteps of relatives in pursuing successful careers in journalism. As is observed for successive generations of medical doctors, one advantage of this is that at least they know what they are letting themselves in for. But it can prompt accusations of nepotism.

One senior national journalist spoke about how he had once recommended a promising young journalist who was at the time working for one of the news agencies. The deputy editor didn't take much notice. But as soon as he mentioned the journalist's surname, the deputy editor's eyes lit up. He happened to be the son of a respected former Fleet Street editor. It was this fact, not his talent alone, that got him the job. Such stories are manifold.

Journalists however were keen to stress that many such people once in the organisation have subsequently prospered on the back of their own talents. It is just that other equally able reporters without such connections stand less chance of securing a junior position in the first place. Increasingly the sons and daughters of prominent journalists have also benefited from an education in the independent school sector.

It was also pointed out that if not directly related to a prominent journalist, those from privileged backgrounds are just more likely to know other journalists in the national media -- and know, at a much earlier stage than others, how the system works. They are more likely to have gained work experience through their contacts. At this stage of their careers, such knowledge is critical.

Many senior journalists however also argued that young people from private schools are just more advanced than their state school counterparts – in their knowledge of how the sector works, in their already growing contacts book, and in their confidence and presentation skills. They are more likely to invite someone with these attributes to do work experience than someone else who will need more guidance – something they just don't have time to do in a busy newsroom.

Broadcast issues

Aspiring broadcast journalists face similar issues.

First jobs are poorly paid and insecure. These range from informal research contracts around £11,000 a year at the BBC for example, or monthly posts on independent production companies (making current affairs programmes) almost exclusively based in London. One survey estimated that just under a quarter of the workforce in the broadcast sector is now employed on a freelance basis.

This once again creates huge disadvantages for those from outside the capital without the support of middle class parents.

Increasingly a young aspiring journalist will have to pay fees (costing several thousand pounds) for a postgraduate degree in broadcast journalism to stand any chance of starting a career. According to the Broadcast journalism training council, over half (55%) of all recruitment into broadcast journalism involves those with BJTC accredited courses.

A 'Journalism Diversity Fund' has been established to provide bursaries for those from "ethnically and socially diverse backgrounds" in response to growing concerns "that journalists reporting the news reflect the communities they serve". But this provides bursaries for only six students a year.

Once again postgraduate degrees are becoming a pre-requisite for those who pursue the traditional route of serving on local and regional TV and radio networks before moving to national media in London. A small proportion of TV news presenters however still can come from newspaper backgrounds.

The picture for the BBC is a more complex one. In comparison with newspapers for example, selection for permanent posts is far more formal—a consequence of being a public sector body. In the past the BBC attracted a high proportion of private school educated types. But now recruitment policies are geared to meet targets for employing staff from a range of backgrounds.

Applications for work placements meanwhile are now dealt with through a central system. One BBC journalist said that those securing placements in the past always knew someone on the inside "but you can't circumvent the system now".

What impact these aspects of recruitment at the BBC have had on the educational background of its staff however remains to be seen as the corporation currently refuses to compile such information publicly.

Appendix

2006 Top 100

		School	School Type ⁴	University
NEWSPAPER EDITORS (26)				
Roger Alton	Observer	Clifton College	IND	Oxford
Lionel Barber	Financial Times	Dulwich College	IND	Oxford
John Bryant	Daily Telegraph	Sexey's, Bruton, Somerset	SEL	Oxford
Andy Coulson	News of the World	Beauchamps Comprehensive, Essex	COMP	No
Paul Dacre	Daily Mail	University College	IND	Leeds
Matthew d'Ancona	Spectator	St Dunstan's College	IND	Oxford
Tristan Davies	Independent on Sunday	Douai	IND	Bristol
Bill Emmott	Economist	Latymer Upper	SEL	Oxford
Peter Hill	Daily Express	Hulme Grammar	SEL	Manchester
Ian Hislop	Private Eye	Ardingly College	IND	Oxford
John Kampfner	New Statesman	Westminster	IND	Oxford
Simon Kelner	Independent	Bury Grammar	SEL	Preston Polytechnic
Geert Linnebank	Reuters	European, Brussels	INT	Vrije, Brussels
Gareth Morgan	Daily Star Sunday	Codswall, Wolverhampton	COMP	Manchester
Dawn Neesom	Daily Star	Valentines High, Ilford Essex	COMP	No
Paul Potts	Press Association	Worksop College	IND	No
Alan Rusbridger	Guardian	Cranleigh	IND	Cambridge
Sarah Sands	Sunday Telegraph	Kent College, Pembury	IND	Goldsmiths
Mark Thomas	People	Rutlish, Merton	COMP	No
Robert Thomson	Times	Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology	INT	No
Martin Townsend	Sunday Express	Harrow County Grammar For Boys	SEL	London College of Printing
Rebekah Wade	Sun	Appleton Hall, Chesire	IND	Sorbonne
Veronica Wadley	Evening Standard	Francis Holland, Benenden, Kent	IND	No
Richard Wallace	Mirror	Ratcliffe College, Leicestershire	IND	No
John Witherow	Sunday Times	Bedford	IND	York
Peter Wright	Mail on Sunday	Marlborough College	IND	Cambridge
NEWSPAPER COLUMNISTS (22)				
David Aaronavitch	Times	Holloway County Comprehensive; William Ellis	COMP	Oxford; Manchester
Yasmin Alibhai-Brown	Independent	Uganda	INT	Oxford
Craig Brown	Daily Telegraph	Eton	IND	Bristol
Jonathan Freedland	Guardian	University College	IND	Oxford
Andrew Gilligan	Evening Standard	Grey Court, Ham	COMP	Cambridge

⁴ This is the type at the time the individual entered the school. Independent schools which were part of the direct grant scheme have been classified as state selective (SEL) for the period they were part of the scheme.

Simon Heffer	Daily Telegraph	King Edward VI, Chelmsford	SEL	Cambridge
		The Leys, Cambridge; Oxford		
Peter Hitchens	Mail on Sunday	College of Further Education	IND	York
Sir Simon Jenkins	Sunday Times	Mill Hill	IND	Oxford
Boris Johnson	Daily Telegraph	Eton College	IND	Oxford
		Deacon's Grammar,		Harlow Technical
Richard Littlejohn	Daily Mail	Peterborough	SEL	College
George Monbiot	Guardian	Stowe, Buckinghamshire	IND	Oxford
		Worcester Girls Grammar		
Jane Moore	Sun	school	SEL	No
		Market Harborough Upper;		
Allison Pearson	Daily Mail	Lincoln Christ's Hospital	COMP	Cambridge
Quentin Peel	Financial Times	Wellington College	IND	Cambridge
Melanie Phillips	Daily Mail	Putney High	SEL	Oxford
Andrew Rawnsley	Observer	Lawrence Sheriff Grammar	SEL	Cambridge
Brian Reade	Mirror	De La Salle Grammar	SEL	Warwick
Peter Riddell	Times	Dulwich College	IND	Cambridge
Will Self	Evening Standard	University College	IND	Oxford
Philip Stephens	Financial Times	Wimbledon College	SEL	Oxford
Polly Toynbee	Guardian	Holland Park Comprehensive	COMP	Oxford
		Independent on		
Alan Watkins	Sunday	Amman Valley Grammar	SEL	Cambridge

NEWS PRESENTERS / CORRESPONDENTS (33)

George Alagiah	BBC	St John's College, Portsmouth	SEL	Durham
Mark Austin	ITV	Bournemouth	SEL	No
Adam Boulton	Sky News	Westminster	IND	Oxford
				University
Jeremy Bowen	BBC	Cardiff High	SEL	College London
Tom Bradby	ITV	Sherborne	IND	Edinburgh
		International school of Milan;		
		Haberdashers' Aske's		
Fiona Bruce	BBC	Hatcham Girls' , New Cross	SEL	Oxford
Nicky Campbell	BBC Five Live	Edinburgh Academy	IND	Aberdeen
Evan Davis	BBC	Ashcombe, Dorking	SEL	Oxford
		Glengorse, Battle;		
David Dimbleby	BBC Question	Charterhouse	IND	Oxford
Jonathan Dimbleby	Time	Charterhouse	IND	UCL
Huw Edwards	ITV	Llanelli Boys Grammar	SEL	Wales in Cardiff
Gavin Esler	BBC	George Heriot's, Edinburgh	IND	Kent
Matt Frei	BBC Newsnight	Westminster	IND	Oxford
Krishnan Guru-	BBC	Queen Elizabeth's Grammar,		
Murthy	Channel 4 News	Blackburn	IND	Oxford
John Humphrys	BBC Today	Cardiff High	SEL	No
		George Watson's Ladies		
Martha Kearney	BBC Newsnight	College, Edinburgh	IND	Oxford
		Dundee High, Craigflower,		
Andrew Marr	BBC	Fife, Loretto, Musselburgh	IND	Cambridge
		Marlborough College,		
James Mates	ITV	Farnham College, Leeds	IND	No
Trevor McDonald	ITV Tonight	Schools in Trinidad	INT	No
		Dragon, Oxford; Repton,		
Robert Moore	ITV	Derbyshire	IND	Oxford
James Naughtie	BBC Today	Keith Grammar	SEL	Aberdeen

Bill Neely	ITV	St Malachy's Belfast	SEL	Queen's Belfast
Mary Nightingale	ITV	St Margaret School, Exeter;	IND	Bedford College (London), now
Jeremy Paxman	BBC Newsnight	King Edward VI, Totnes	IND	Queen Mary
Nick Robinson	BBC	Malvern College	SEL	Cambridge
John Simpson	BBC	Cheadle Hulme	IND	Oxford
Jon Snow	Channel 4 News	St Paul's	IND	Cambridge
Martin Stanford	Sky News	St Edwards	IND	Liverpool
Edward Stourton	BBC Today	Chichester High for Boys;	COMP	Brunel
Jeremy Thompson	Sky News	Wood Green, Witney	IND	Cambridge
Jeremy Vine	BBC Politics show	Ampleforth College	IND	No
Kirsty Wark	BBC Newsnight	Sevenoaks, Kent; King's,	IND	No
Kirsty Young	Five News	Worcester	COMP	No
NEWS EDITORS / PRODUCERS (19)				
Kevin Bakhurst	BBC Ten O'clock News	Epsom College	IND	Durham
Peter Barron	BBC Newsnight	Wellington, Ayr	IND	Stirling/Edinburgh
Helen Boaden	BBC News	High of Stirling	COMP	No
Mark Calvert	Five News	Haberddasher's Aske's, Elstree	IND	Cambridge
George Carey	Independent	Royal Belfast Academical Institution	SEL	Manchester (UMIST)
Amanda Farnsworth	BBC Six O'clock News	Northgate Grammar for Girls, Norwich; Cedars Grammar, Bedfordshire	SEL	Sussex
Roger Graef	Independent	Heath Grammar, Halifax	SEL	No
Jim Gray	Channel 4 News	Downside	IND	Oxford
Colin Hancock	BBC World at One	St Paul's Girls, London	IND	LSE
Peter Horrocks	BBC	Putney, Vermont	INT	Harvard
David Kermodie	BBC Breakfast News	John Neilson High	COMP	Stirling
David Mannion	ITV News	Lawrence Sheriff Grammar	SEL	Edinburgh
Kevin Marsh	BBC Today	King's College, Wimbledon	IND	Cambridge
Stephen Mitchell	BBC Radio News	Ryde School, Isle of Wight;	IND	No
Nick Pollard	Sky News	Highbury College, Portsmouth	IND	No
Peter Rippon	BBC PM and Broadcasting House	Long Eaton Grammar, Derbyshire	SEL	No
Deborah Turness	ITV Network News	The Grammar, Doncaster	SEL	Oxford
Fran Unsworth	BBC	Loughborough Grammar	IND	Manchester
Adrian Van Klaveran	BBC	Birkenhead	SEL	No
		Gillott's Comprehensive	COMP	East Anglia
		St Francis Convent, Hertfordshire; The Knight's Templar, Baldock	COMP	Surrey
		St Dominic's High for Girls, Stoke-on-Trent	IND	Manchester
		Bristol Grammar	SEL	Oxford

1986 Top 100

		School	School Type	University
NEWSPAPER EDITORS (25)				
William Deedes	Daily Telegraph	Harrow	IND	No
David English	Daily Mail	Bournemouth	SEL	No
Richard Ingrams	Private Eye	Shrewsbury	IND	Oxford
John Junor	Sunday Express	North Kelvinside	COMP	Glasgow
Louis Kirby	London Standard	Colebrookdale High	SEL	No
Andrew Knight	Economist	Ampleforth College	IND	Oxford
Larry Lamb	Daily Express	Rastrick Grammar	SEL	No
Brian MacArthur	Today	Helsby Grammar	SEL	Leeds
Kelvin MacKenzie	Sun	Alley'n's, Dulwich	SEL	No
David Montgomery	News of the World	Bangor Grammar, County Down	SEL	Queen's Belfast
Charles Moore	Spectator	Eton	IND	Cambridge
Andrew Neil	Sunday Times	Paisley Grammar	SEL	Glasgow
Geoffrey Owen	Financial Times	Rugby	IND	Oxford
Peter Preston	Guardian	Loughborough Grammar	SEL	Oxford
Michael Reupke	Reuters	Latymer Upper	SEL	Cambridge
Hugh Stephenson	New Statesman	Winchester College	IND	Oxford
Stewart Steven	Mail on Sunday	Mayfield College, Sussex	IND	No
Richard Stott	Mirror	Clifton College, Bristol	IND	No
Peter Thompson	Sunday Mirror	Brisbane Grammar	INT	No
Donald Treford	Observer	Bablake, Coventry	SEL	Cambridge
Lloyd Turner	Star Press	Armidale, Australia	INT	No
Colin Webb	Association	Portsmouth Grammar	SEL	No
Andreas Whittam Smith	Independent	Birkenhead	SEL	Oxford
Charles Wilson	Times	Eastbank Academy, Glasgow	COMP	No
Peregrine Worsthorpe	Sunday Telegraph	Stowe, Peterhouse, Cambridge	IND	Oxford
NEWSPAPER COLUMNISTS (22)				
Ian Aitken	Guardian	King Alfred	IND	Oxford
Neal Ascherson	Observer	Eton	IND	Cambridge
Conor Cruise O'Brien	Times	Sandford Park, Dublin	INT	Trinity College, Dublin
Kenneth Fleet	Times	Calday Grange Grammar, Cheshire	SEL	LSE
Paul Foot	Daily Mirror	Shrewsbury	IND	Oxford
George Gale	Daily Mail	Royal Grammar, Newcastle	SEL	Cambridge
Joe Haines	Daily Mirror	Rotherhithe, London	COMP	No
Max Hastings	Sunday Times	Charterhouse	IND	Oxford
Simon Heffer	Daily Telegraph	King Edward VI, Chelmsford	SEL	Cambridge
Peter Jenkins	Sunday Times	Culford, Bury St Edmunds	SEL	Cambridge

Simon Jenkins	Sunday Times	Mill Hill	IND	Oxford
Bernard Levin	Times	Christ's Hospital	IND	LSE
Robin Oakley	Times	Wellington College	IND	Oxford
Adam Raphael	Observer	Charterhouse	IND	Oxford
Jean Rook	Daily Express	Malet Lambert Grammar, Hull	SEL	Bedford College, Leeds
Polly Toynbee	Guardian	Holland Park Comprehensive School	COMP	Oxford
Keith Waterhouse	Daily Mirror	Osmondthorpe Council, Leeds	COMP	No
Alan Watkins	Various Sunday Telegraph	Amman Valley Grammar	SEL	Cambridge
Auberon Waugh	Observer	Downside	IND	Oxford
Katherine Whitehorn	News of the World	Roedean; Glasgow High for Girls	IND	Cambridge
Woodrow Wyatt	Observer	Milbourne Lodge; Eastbourne College	IND	Oxford
Hugo Young	Guardian	Ampleforth College, York	IND	Oxford

NEWS PRESENTERS/CORRESPONDENTS (35)

Kate Adie	BBC	Sunderland Church High	IND	Newcastle
Brian Barron	BBC	Bristol Grammar	SEL	No
Martin Bell	BBC	The Leys, Cambridge	IND	Cambridge
Michael Brunson	ITN	Bedford	IND	Oxford
Michael Buerk	BBC	Solihull	IND	No
Alistair Burnet	ITN	The Leys, Cambridge	IND	Oxford
John Cole	BBC	Belfast Royal Academy	IND	London
Robin Day	BBC Question Time	Bembridge	IND	Oxford
David Dimpleby	BBC	Glengorse, Battle;	IND	Oxford
Jonathan Dimpleby	ITV	Charterhouse	IND	UCL
Anna Ford	BBC	Charterhouse		
		Grammars in Wigton, Brampton Cumberland, Minehead, Somerset	SEL	Manchester
David Frost	BBC	Gillingham Grammar, Wellingborough Grammar	SEL	Cambridge
Sandy Gall	ITN	Glenalmond	IND	Aberdeen
Brian Hanrahan	BBC	Ignatius College, Tottenham	SEL	Essex
John Humphrys	BBC	Cardiff High	SEL	No
Peter Jay	Channel Four A Week In Politics	Winchester College	IND	Oxford
Sue Lawley	BBC	Dudley Girls High	SEL	Bristol
Martyn Lewis	ITN	Dalriada High, NI	SEL	Dublin
Richard Lindley	BBC Panorama	Bedford	IND	Cambridge
Trevor McDonald	ITN	Schools in Trinidad	INT	No
Jenni Murray	BBC Today	Barnsley Girls High	SEL	Hull
Michael Parkinson	BBC	Barnsley Grammar	SEL	No
Jeremy Paxman	BBC	Malvern College	IND	Cambridge

Brian Redhead	BBC Today	Royal Grammar, Newcastle	SEL	Cambridge
John Sergeant	BBC	Millfield, Somerset	IND	Oxford
John Simpson	BBC	St Paul's	IND	Cambridge
		Liverpool Institute High for		
Peter Sissons	Channel Four	Boys	SEL	Oxford
Peter Snow	BBC Newsnight	Wellington College	IND	Oxford
Jon Snow	ITN	St Edwards	IND	Liverpool
Julia Somerville	BBC	Headington	IND	Sussex
		St Augustine's Abbey,		
Alastair Stewart	ITN	Ramsgate	IND	Bristol
John Suchet	ITN	Uppingham	IND	St Andrews
John Timpson	BBC Today	Merchant Taylors'	SEL	No
	ITV Weekend			
Brian Walden	World	West Bromich Grammar	SEL	Oxford
Charles Wheeler	BBC Newsnight	Cranbrook	SEL	No
NEWS EDITORS/PRODUCERS (18)				
Jenny Abramsky	BBC Today	Holland Park	COMP	East Anglia
Roger Bolton	ITV This Week	Carlisle Grammar	SEL	Liverpool
	BBC			
Christopher Capron	parliamentary broadcasting	Wellington College	IND	Cambridge
	BBC			
George Carey	documentary features	Downside	IND	Oxford
	ITV A Week in			
David Elstein	Politics	Haberdashers' Aske's	SEL	Cambridge
Ray Fitzwalter	World in Action	The Derby	SEL	LSE
Roger Graef	Independent	Putney, Vermont	INT	Harvard
		King Edward's School, Birmingham; Birkenhead		
Tony Hall	BBC TV news		SEL	Oxford
	BBC current			
Peter Ibbotson	affairs	Manchester Grammar	SEL	Oxford
Brian Lapping	Granada	City of London (Boys)	IND	Cambridge
Ron Neil	BBC News	High of Glasgow	SEL	No
David Nicholas	ITN	Neath Grammar	SEL	Aberystwyth
	BBC current			
Peter Pagnamenta	affairs	Shrewsbury	IND	Cambridge
	Channel Four			
Stuart Purvis	news	Dulwich College	IND	Exeter
Richard Tait	BBC Newsnight	Bradfield College	IND	Oxford
Sue Tinson	ITN News at Ten	South Hampstead High	SEL	Hull
				Royal Belfast
Robin Walsh	BBC News	Foyle College, NI	SEL	Academical
John Willis	Yorkshire TV	Eltham College	SEL	Institute Cambridge