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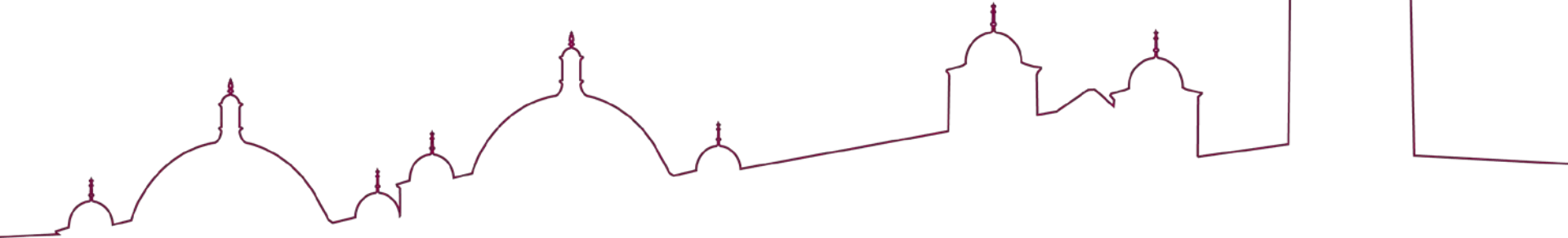
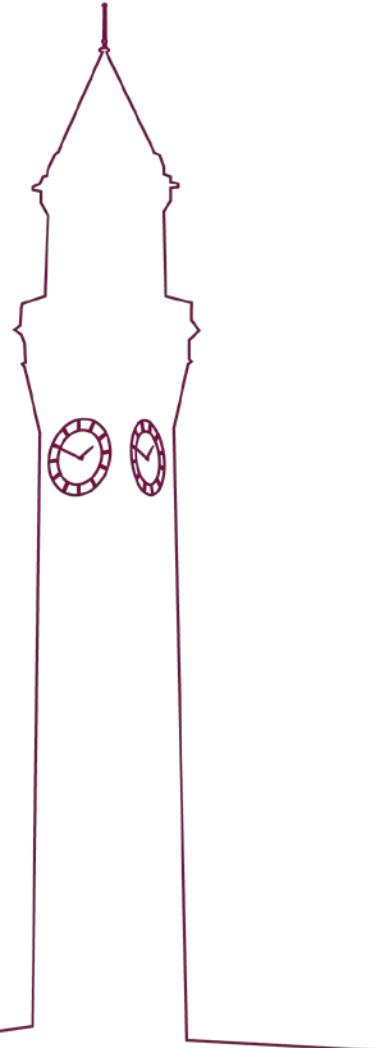


Institute for
Fiscal Studies

The benefits of private education in the 21st century

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Discussant at UCL IoE workshop: 17-12-18



Overview

- Different aspects of returns to private education
- Primarily private benefits, although some social
- Overall the papers suggest:
 - Little effect of school type on KS4 attainment
 - Some effect on KS5 attainment, esp. facilitating subjects
 - Some effect on HE entry but not university type (conditional on GCSE and A-level attainment)
 - Some effect on early labour market outcomes
 - No effect on ‘public good’ outcomes



Similarities and differences

- All papers use rich survey data to capture selection into private education, acknowledging limitations
- Consider the effect of attending a private school at slightly different ages (13/14 vs. 15/16 vs. 16-18)
- Where outcomes overlap:
 - Use slightly different measures (e.g. UCAS points vs. rank)
 - But results largely consistent (albeit sometimes interpreted differently) and largely consistent with existing literature too

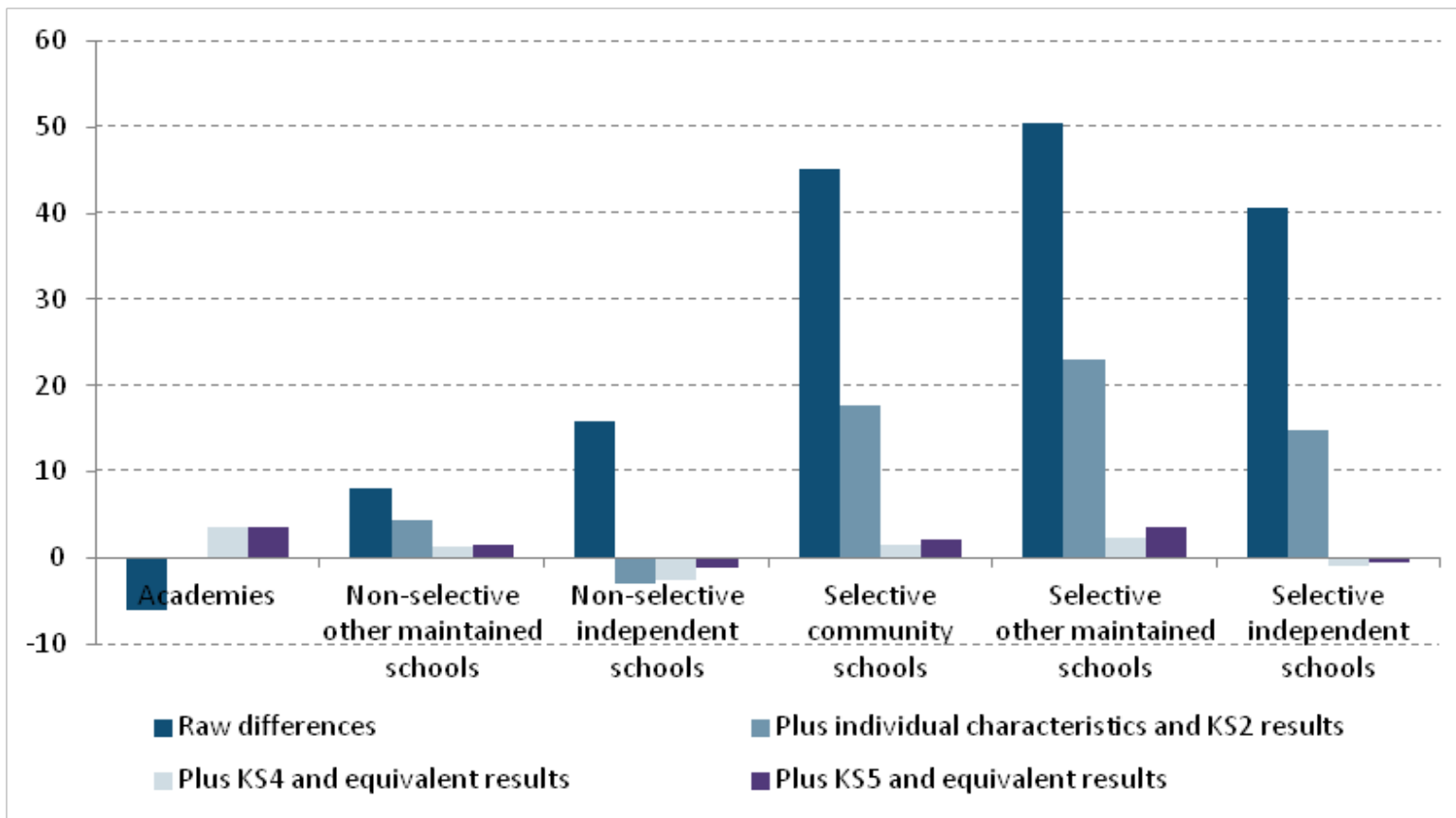


General comments

- Greater emphasis on differences controlling for selection vs. those conditioning on variables that are potentially outcomes of private education as well
- How much further might we be able to reduce the ‘effects’ of private education by conditioning on richer measures – of prior attainment in particular?



Differences in HE participation (vs. non-selective community schools)



Source: Crawford (2014)



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Suggestions for future research

- How important is private education at different ages?
 - Selection into and outcomes of different trajectories
- How heterogeneous are the outcomes of private education? Which pupil and school characteristics are particularly associated with high(er) benefits?
- How close can we get to causal estimates from admin data (vs. rich observational survey data)?

