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date**

HIGH PERFORMING COMPS SCORE TOP MARKS WITH HOME HUNTING PARENTS

Parents unable to afford private school fees and deterred by oversubscribed grammars will be flocking to secure the next best education at one of the country's top performing comprehensives, says PropertyIndex.com, which has seen searches on its website soar for family property in counties such as Hertfordshire, which boasts high achieving comps.

As private school fees become an unaffordable luxury for many, the rush to apply to the country's top grammars to secure an above average education has resulted in over subscription, with as many as seven applications for every place. Now parents are looking at the next best option – a place at a high performing comprehensive which requires living in a sought after catchment.

PropertyIndex.com Chief Executive, Lee Bramzell comments: "While family homes around popular schools have always commanded a premium, the rise in interest from parents who would have previously chosen private schools has had a ripple effect for applications to local grammars and top performing comprehensives.

"Parents able to move now can snap up the many bargains on offer in traditionally solid suburbs, which not only give them a great investment property wise but also a first-rate education for their children, at no extra cost. These areas, often with excellent transport links, will be the first to fly when the market improves."

With a wide range of top performing schools including the only comprehensive to feature in the Top 100 schools (based on 2008 A Level results) Hertfordshire has proved a popular destination with homebuyers. The number of searches for a home

in the county has grown over 200% since the start of the year, as Hertfordshire's top performing schools prove an increasingly strong draw for today's families.

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Notes to Editors

Launched in 2007, PropertyIndex.com is the UK's leading *pay for results* global property portal.

The site currently provides access to 250,000 properties for sale or rent across the UK and overseas, serving over 1,300,000 listings views in January 2009 alone. There is no sign up fee and agents listing their properties on the site pay on a cost per lead basis only.

After becoming established as the leading overseas property portal, PropertyIndex.com launched into the UK residential sales and letting arena in September 2008.

The portal also acts as an information centre, providing a one-stop solution for consumers looking to buy, sell, rent or let their home anywhere in the world.

www.propertyindex.com

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