The British School, Kathmandu, has won the British International School Initiative of the Year award at the prestigious 2016 TES Independent School Awards held on Nov 25, 2016, in London.

The school used long-standing relationships forged through a student-led development initiative to make a significant contribution in the aftermath of the April 2015 earthquake. It reopened after just two days, providing a safe haven for students. The school also offered its hall as a base for Médecins Sans Frontières. It took in children from other international schools, and its grounds were used as a campsite for those without homes. Teachers expanded their timetables to cover for absent colleagues, and taught outside in temporary classrooms.

Public exams took place as normal. There was, however, a feeling that more could be done. Each of the three primary schools with which the school partners had been severely damaged, one destroyed completely. The British School, Kathmandu, raised £350,000 in a few months, and a year later, all have been rebuilt. Despite serving the poorest communities, the partner schools have started their new academic year with some of the finest and safest facilities in the country.

Winners attended a black-tie event in at the Grosvenor House Hotel, London, hosted by comedian Simon Evans, where over 300 attendees celebrated all that is outstanding in independent schools across the UK. The awards have 14 categories, including British International School of the Year, Special Needs Initiative of the Year, and Senior Leadership Team of the Year.