



Welcome to the AEGIS Newsletter! We are pleased to be including several articles which we hope you will find interesting and informative. Thank you to everyone who has contributed – we appreciate your support. Wishing you all a successful new academic year!

Letter from the Chair



I was honoured to be elected Chair of AEGIS earlier this year, and it has been a particular pleasure to work with such a positive and harmonious group of Trustees. I would like to pay a tremendous tribute to my predecessor, Alison Blythe, who has overseen the development of AEGIS into an organisation with an important place in the educational landscape. Alison will continue as a Trustee for the rest of this year, and can feel secure in her legacy; our thanks go to her and to all of the Trustees for their work in supporting AEGIS.

The past few months have been particularly busy for AEGIS. As all good organisations should, we have undertaken a governance review and are in the process of setting up various Sub-Committees, to manage our own constitutional development, as well as our marketing strategy (building on the extremely helpful work of the Marketing Group), and our inspections. With more guardianship organisations joining AEGIS, we need to be vigilant in ensuring that our inspection processes are extremely robust, so that we can be absolutely certain that an AEGIS inspection reflects the gold standard in educational guardianship.

I do hope that you have had a chance to read the document prepared by Veale Wasbrough Vizards (VWV) which details the legal situation regarding guardianship in the UK. The document – free to guardianship organisation and school members – makes an extremely strong case for AEGIS membership, and it has had a very good hearing in the national discussions we have been having with the Department for Education, as well as Local Authorities. The voice of AEGIS is gradually being heard, and official bodies are starting to understand the importance of well-regulated guardianship.

Finally, I was delighted to be able to announce in June our new partnership with the Boarding Schools' Association (BSA). With the Independent Schools Council (ISC) census in April reporting that there are now over 28,500 international students at ISC schools, the majority at boarding schools, our two organisations have shared goals in respect of ensuring the high quality care and education of these students, and we look forward to facilitating closer and more fruitful relationships between schools and guardianship organisations in the future.

I very much look forward to seeing you at AEGIS events throughout the year, and to helping AEGIS support you in your work.

Dr Helen Wright,
AEGIS Chair and International Education Advisor

Working together to raise standards

The AEGIS-BSA Partnership was launched in June 2018 with the simple aim of helping to raise standards of guardianship for overseas boarders coming to the UK. AEGIS has been leading the way in this very important area for many years. So why launch the partnership?



From BSA's perspective the answer lies in the range of services it has traditionally offered and how that compares with the increasingly complex activities facing a modern UK boarding school.

It could be argued that a boarding school's 'value chain' consists of three links starting with the same letter: Supply, Service and Setting.



Supply concerns the marketing of a school to recruit boarders, the admissions of those recruited, visa regulation and appointing guardians.

Service concerns delivering high quality pastoral care, meeting regulations like the National Minimum Standards for Boarding.

Setting concerns boarding houses and ensuring they are fit for purpose to deliver modern, British boarding.

BSA's Mission is 'Champion boarding and promote excellence' and everything it does focuses on achieving this. But however laudable the goal, it does not mean BSA is supporting schools across every link in the value chain.

Against the Service link, BSA has always been traditionally strong, being the lead provider of specialist training for boarding staff in the world, as well as providing guidance, advice, inset reviews and publications.

With regard to the Setting link, BSA has become more active over the past three years and now runs training and consultancy on boarding house layout, design, fixtures and fittings.

However, against the first link of the chain, Supply, BSA is typically involved only at the top level – overall marketing of the boarding sector and through initiatives like its 'I Love Boarding campaign' or National Boarding Week. Further down the Supply link list however, BSA has not to date been heavily involved, despite some increasingly complex activities for schools, such as Tier 4 regulations, dealing with agents and recruiting around the world.

And this of course brings us back to guardianship. This is a crucial responsibility for BSA member schools to help ensure overseas boarders are safe when they are away from their host school and not travelling back to their home countries. Through the AEGIS-BSA Partnership, BSA can now start to close the gap on an area in which it has not been active and provide better support for its members to contribute to rising standards. So the advantage to BSA working with AEGIS is clear and evident, but what about the other way round?

Well I hope the advantage is equal and two-way...particularly as BSA is the largest association of boarding schools in the world (564 members in nearly 300 countries, including 492 in the UK) and the largest provider of support services.

It is early days of course in the life of the partnership but there are clearly only positive things ahead - the ability to work together on projects, reach more schools and pool resources to raise guardianship standards. If that is what partnership can mean and deliver, it certainly gets my vote.

Robin Fletcher,
Chief Executive, The Boarding Schools' Association

SAVE THE DATE for the BSA-AEGIS CONFERENCE 2019

We are holding our first joint conference with BSA on Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th March 2019 in London. We're calling it MAGIC!

Marketing Admissions Guardianship International Conference. This should be the biggest conference yet, bringing school and guardianship staff together. The conference will include relevant talks and sessions throughout both days, with a drinks reception and evening meal on Wednesday 13th March 2019. More details to follow. We hope to see you there!

First AEGIS legal framework outlining responsibilities



As previously mentioned by our Chair, in April 2018, in partnership with VWV, AEGIS produced an informative document offering guidance on the legal responsibilities of educational guardians, homestays, schools, parents and others. This document has been made available to all AEGIS guardianship organisation and school members, and is proving to be a very useful 'go-to' document.

Why should schools join AEGIS?

Benefits include:

- School profile on the AEGIS website, visited by overseas parents and agents from over 85 countries
- School Guardianship Policy Guidelines
- Legal framework around guardianship and liabilities with regard to schools, guardians and homestays
- Discounted rates at our events and StudyTravel Alphe Conferences <https://studytravel.network> - a great opportunity to meet agents
- Opportunity to submit news stories for our newsletter
- Advice and support

If your guardianship organisation and/or school would like to become a member, please contact yasemin@aegisuk.net.

News from StudyTravel! Agents key for secondary sector recruitment



Agents are the predominant channel of international student recruitment for secondary schools, accounting for more than three-quarters of enrolments in most of the English-speaking destinations, according to StudyTravel Magazine's surveys of secondary providers. The annual surveys of high schools in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the UK and the USA by StudyTravel Magazine covered 127 institutions that hosted a total of 24,133 international students last year. In the 2018 surveys, the share of international students recruited via agents increased in Canada, Australia and the UK, with the latter rising from 64 per cent in our 2017 survey to 75 per cent this year. Overall, schools in Canada were the most dependent on agents, who provided 84 per cent of international students enrolled at the 28 participating schools there.

Australian schools recruited 78 per cent of students via agents, schools the UK and New Zealand both sourced 75 per cent through this method, and agents provided 52 per cent of students for high schools in the USA.



Although China remained the top source country in each destination, dependence weakened this year with a reduced market share. In Canada, for example, the ratio of Chinese students declined from 49.6 per cent in our 2017 survey to 36.9 per cent this time, and schools in the UK and New Zealand reported similar decreases in market share.

Brazil emerged as a top three source country for secondary schools in Canada with eight per cent market share, and Thailand became New Zealand's third largest source country with a doubling of share to 10.9 per cent.

France became a key source for the UK; and Malaysia jumped to become Australia's second largest supplier of secondary students for participating schools with 7.3 per cent share.

The USA remained the most expensive of the five boarding destinations with an average annual tuition and accommodation fee of US\$44,178, similar to our previous survey.

Average fees in Australia increased to US\$34,301 in our survey this year, almost catching up with the UK, where average fees declined to US\$35,573, possibly as a result of the weakened pound sterling. Canada, where many of the participants were public school boards, remained the cheapest destination, with average fees of US\$10,976.

In the UK and the USA, boarding remained the main choice of accommodation for international students, while homestay was more common in Australia, Canada and New Zealand.

See StudyTravel Magazine's statistics portal for the annual surveys of secondary schools, as well as: market analysis surveys on language providers in 13 destinations; the global market report on the scale of the global ELT industry; and surveys of agency markets around the world.

Matthew Knott,
News Editor, Study Travel Magazine

AEGIS MEMBER GUARDIANSHIP ORGANISATION NEWS

Should I open a Dog Kennels? No – it is far too complicated

The job we do as guardians is to look after vulnerable children from overseas. They are vulnerable as they are communicating in a second language and are on their own without their parents by their side. The work we do is like any other childcare service. We arrange care for children in other people's homes and transport in strangers' cars.

The only difference with the children under our care is that they are not British, and therefore they fall outside of the UK childcare audit. I cannot believe that in 2018 the guardianship sector is unrecognised and unregulated by any UK authority.

If you compare regulation of UK guardianships to the Dog Kennel industry the results are shocking. According to my research [click here](#), to look after other people's animals in a residential establishment, or even in your own home, you need to register, be inspected, and follow a long list of guidelines. To ensure you don't fall short you must be DBS checked and cannot be offered a licence if you have ever been barred for cruelty to animals. Failure to comply can result in fine or even imprisonment.

On the other hand, there is absolutely no regulation at all for being an Educational Guardian and to look after international students either in your own home or to arrange care in a host family. There is no one checking people out for our young international students.

It would seem that, albeit perhaps inadvertently, the authorities in this country are taking more care of dogs than they are of international students.

This is why AEGIS is such great news for international students and their parents. Bright World is heavily inspected; we choose to be inspected; and we pay for standards. But it is purely voluntary.



Of more than 28,000 international students at UK boarding schools - according to the most recent census from the Independent Schools' Council (ISC) - only 4,800 were taken care of by AEGIS-accredited guardianship providers last year. Schools' safeguarding measures stop when they are closed during half-terms and exeat weekends, meaning the guardianship role is vital in providing seamless care. At the moment guardianship is a grey area and thousands of students are leaving the school gates into the unknown and unregulated.

The one sector that can help is the schools. The schools make the rules. I am so happy to hear about the recent partnership between AEGIS and the Boarding Schools' Association (BSA), which has more than 550 members.

This is the first association that has taken on board the need for good guardianships. If the government isn't going to legislate, but the associations start to recognise the need for AEGIS, then this can only be a good thing.

Lana Foster
Managing Director, Bright World Guardianships Ltd

Celebrating Kaelyn's 18th Birthday

Kaelyn had difficulty settling into and on occasions became upset before I was appointed as her local guardian. She found it challenging settling in to her previous host family placements in the past.

Kaelyn came to my house for the Christmas holidays and was extremely quiet on arrival. Very gradually she has become more comfortable with us. Kaelyn returned for February half term and for the Easter holidays. She turned 18 while staying at my house so we made sure we celebrated her birthday in an extra special. She now joins in conversations and doesn't lock herself away in her room. I am so proud of how far she has come.

Louise,
White House Guardianship's Local Guardian for the Wye Valley area.



Overseas Pupil Is New Head Boy At Fulneck School



An overseas pupil has been appointed Head Boy at Fulneck School in Pudsey, near Leeds, for the 2018/2019 academic year. Angus Li arrived at Fulneck from Hong Kong in Year 9 with the minimum level of English but, with the help of 'English as an Additional Language' (EAL) lessons, he has developed into an exceptionally talented and high achieving student who has participated fully in the life of the school, culminating in a solo singing spot at last year's Speech Day!

Angus is now about to embark on his final year at Fulneck where he is taking A Levels in Chemistry, Biology, Mathematics and Design Technology. He then hopes to go to university and study veterinary science.

Boarding has been one part of Fulneck life that Angus has particularly enjoyed and he believes it has helped him to mature and achieve the independence he dreamt of when leaving Hong Kong.

He explained: "Boarding at Fulneck is like being part of an extended family. We all look out for each other and the broad range of extra-curricular activities and recreational trips arranged for us means that time really does fly by."

The Post-GCSE Programme at The Mount, Mill Hill International

When designing the intensive One Year GCSE programme for our international students, much thought was given to the second half of the Summer Term, when the IGCSE and GCSE examinations are completed. Many of our students finish their examinations by May Half Term and this moment in the school calendar gives us a unique opportunity to design a programme based on what students really need, freed from the shackles and constraints of examination syllabuses.

Over the last three years since The Mount, Mill Hill International was founded, we have developed a Post-GCSE programme which is packed full of useful activities and courses that allow our international students to finish the year prepared for the next stage of the educational journey in the UK. The programme is an integral part of the GCSE year at our school. Thus, the remaining four weeks of term comprise academic lessons, activities, excursions and workshops designed to provide additional learning not covered in GCSE curriculums.

Many of the workshops are of a practical, skills-based nature. Believing that every young person should have the chance to learn vital life-saving skills, we invite the St. John Ambulance to come into the school to run a first aid course where students learn a variety of techniques to respond to life-threatening situations. Another successful workshop is personal safety where students are trained by experts in how to stay safe and how to avoid and disengage from risk scenarios as well as learn the basics of self-defence.

Careers education forms a large part of the Post-GCSE programme helping the international students prepare for their next steps and get to grips with UCAS and Higher Education in the UK or abroad. This year we also introduced a week of work experience for all our Year 11 students. Tackling the application process, the interview, the commute to work and the work placement itself, are all invaluable experiences that cannot be learnt in the classroom.

Other highlights of our Post-GCSE programme include the final expedition as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award; students becoming 'language leaders' by teaching their languages to pupils from the Prep School; attending residential and field trips and designing, marketing and pitching a product judged by entrepreneurs using the Dragons' Den idea from the famous television series. The four week Post-GCSE programme culminated in celebrations at the Year 11 Leavers' Ball and the final Prize Giving service. All in all, a most memorable but, more importantly, a valuable end to the academic year.

Sarah Bellotti, Head, The Mount, Mill Hill International



Ockbrook School



Ockbrook School has long enjoyed a reputation for its excellence in Music and Drama and, once again, our students were highly successful at the 110th Annual Derby Arts Festival in May. Two of our younger boarders, Kate and Sophie, were members of the choir who won the WG Briggs Cup in the Recital Category for "Best Individual Item", the Festival Cup for "Best Gospel Choir" and the Thomas Shield for Hymn Singing. Kate is from Japan, and has been at Ockbrook for one year. Kate is moving into Year 8 in 2018.

Seven of our Year 12 boarding students have been actively involved in Young Enterprise where students have set up and run 'Vortex', their own business, over the academic year. Students have designed and constructed their own products including a positivity journal, retailing their products at a number of events.

Vortex has won the 'Best Financial Management' Award at the Area and County Finals. Year 12 student Jackie's website design led to them achieving the Company of the Year award at the County Final and, following their success at the Regional Final, Vortex will now represent the East Midlands at the National Final in London. Jackie is from Hong Kong and has been at Ockbrook for five years. She is going into her sixth and final year at Ockbrook in 2018. Kate, Sophie and Jackie all live in the same Boarding House.

Rossall School

TWO-YEAR TITLE FOR VINCENT

For the second year in a row, German student and Deputy School Captain, Vincent Leserer won the Marsden Matchplay Golf Championship at Fleetwood Golf Club. The Championship was held over a period of three months, with the final taking place over two-days in June. Competitors faced off against one another in a knock-out style group stage, with the winners progressing. Vincent won all his matches with ease to make it to the finals where he faced Louis Talarczyk. Following, a thrilling game of two halves, the winner was decided on the 18th hole. Vincent sealed the victory with an excellent shot and retained the championship.

KERRY'S CHARITY CONCERT

In April, in Xi'an, China, Year 12 Chinese student, Kerry Chen, organised a charity concert which she had been preparing for 4 months. Based on the knowledge that Kerry had learnt from her music lessons over the past 2 years, she played and introduced the western piano pieces from a wide range of famous composers including Bach and Mozart. Kerry invited some children from poorer backgrounds who have dreams of becoming musicians and gave them the chance to perform Chinese folk songs with her. Kerry also invited fellow student, Travis Zhao, to perform with her. Travis sang a variety of songs and was a big hit with the crowd! This concert was in the auditorium of Kerry's former primary school. There were around 400-500 people in attendance and Kerry managed to raise almost £3000 pounds for 'The Music Dream' Foundation which helps children to afford instruments and books. Well done, Kerry - this was a fantastic initiative!

HIGH PRAISE FOR ROSSALL SCHOOL STUDENTS IN INTERNATIONAL EXAMS

Whilst their A level colleagues still have a few weeks to wait, Sixth Form students at Rossall School are celebrating after receiving the results of their international exams.

Rossall student, Roddy June Lau was awarded 40 points for his Diploma, the equivalent of 4 'A*' grades at A Level. Nineteen year old, Chinese-native Roddy, who studied Economics, Physics, Business, Chinese Literature, English, Mathematics and Philosophy as an additional subject hopes to go on to study Philosophy at the University College London (UCL).

He said, "It was always my ambition to do the IB. I was rejected from one of the top schools in China who offer the Diploma and so I always wanted to complete it to prove that I could."

Fellow student Felix Kohlhas from Germany achieved 42 points, placing him at the very top of worldwide results.

Felix is now waiting until August to sit for the entrance examination for the prestigious ETH Zürich where he hopes to study Electrical and Information Technology.



DLD College London – New AEGIS Member School

DLD College London is an unusual and unique boarding school. Situated right in the heart of Central London, opposite the Houses of Parliament and right next to Waterloo Station, we offer the 250 boarders who live on site in our bespoke building the opportunity to be able to enjoy all the benefits and attractions our remarkable location has to offer. We are a truly international community, with young people from over 50 nationalities choosing to board with us from all over the world. We have boarders from age 14 studying on our Pre-sessional, GCSE, A Level and IFP courses.

In a boarding environment like ours, safety and security are of paramount importance, and we have various measures and systems in place to safeguard our students while they are with us. At the same time, we want DLD Boarding to be an oasis for our students in the heart of a busy city – a place where boarders can feel at home, and where they will be encouraged to develop personally, showing initiative and responsibility by being involved in their school and local communities.

As a College with a liberal ethos, boarders have a lot of freedom, with various safety measures in place to protect them. We keep boarding open throughout the school year, except for Christmas and Summer holidays, so there are various times that we might need our students to have a reliable guardian from time to time. Guardians, of course, can also offer important local support to boarders in times of need, and on a week-by-week basis, attending parents evenings and special occasions. This level of involvement is an example, in my experience, of the best kind of guardianship – good guardians don't only step in in an emergency: they stay interested and involved in a boarder's life.

The recent partnership between AEGIS and the BSA emphasises the importance of good guardianship. We are delighted to have become recent members of AEGIS. We look forward to working with AEGIS in the future to support their work and, most importantly, to support our boarders from across the globe.

John J. Taylor,
Assistant Principal (Boarding), DLD College



Hereford Cathedral School - One of the oldest schools in Britain returns to boarding



Eight-hundred-year-old Hereford Cathedral School is set to open a new international boarding house this Autumn where overseas students will enjoy the benefits of an outstanding education and the friendly culture of a traditional British school.

The magnificent Georgian residence will accommodate up to 31 pupils who can come back to a comfortable, happy home set within five acres of lush Herefordshire countryside, a range of recreational facilities and friendly residential staff to help them relax in a warm, family atmosphere.

Housemistress for the new boarding house is Mrs Pippa Fowler, Teacher of Maths and Head of Rowing at Hereford Cathedral School. Pippa brings with her a wealth of experience from boarding schools such as historic Rugby School and is a graduate from Cambridge University.

With its well-established Chinese student community, Hereford Cathedral School's Headmaster, Paul Smith, explained that the school has been proactive in developing an even wider international ethos.

He said: "As we broaden the intake of international students from more countries, they will be warmly welcomed and prepared well for both university and the workplace. Our overseas pupils are integrated with sensitivity so that the quality of their academic, pastoral, spiritual and social experience is enhanced."

He added: "We believe that overseas students also have much to offer our current students about the wider, globalised world in which we live. We are privileged to have residential staff with substantial boarding experience. They have been recruited from our existing teaching staff and have a deep understanding of the ethos of Hereford Cathedral School."

The school will provide coeducational boarding for pupils aged 13+. The first intake of additional international students will arrive later this Autumn.

Trinity School



When Simon Lai arrived at Trinity School, Teignmouth from Hong Kong three years ago, he lacked confidence and self-belief. Simon arrived at Trinity in September 2015, joining us for the pre-A level preparation year with GCSEs before two years in our Sixth Form.

He has since grown to become an aspirational individual who has taken on important leadership roles in the school community. He has been able to grow and develop not only academically but personally too. Simon is a respected member of the school community and has integrated well across the whole school.

One of Simon's biggest extra-curricular interests during his time at Trinity has been the school's Combined Cadet Force (CCF). Simon, or Cadet C/Sgt Simon Lai, has relished his role in CCF, and currently leads the CCF Army Section. Due to Simon's support, commitment and encouragement, more international students have felt comfortable and confident enough to join the programme.

Simon's Christian values are important to him, and he has been able to develop his understanding of Christianity at Trinity. After he finishes his A Levels this summer he will be returning to Hong Kong to study Theology at university. A popular figure amongst all within the community, he will be truly missed and everyone at Trinity School would like to wish him the very best.

News

- The AEGIS Spring Conference took place at Holborn Bars on Thursday 15 March 2018 and was fully booked with over 85 delegates. Speakers included Julie Robinson - ISC; Helen Clews - British Council; Clodagh Wilkinson - Bournemouth Borough Council; and Dai Durbridge - Browne Jacobson. All our speakers helped us to raise awareness of the importance of AEGIS accredited guardians and the safeguarding of international students. The child is our absolute priority in everything we do at AEGIS.
- In June and July, we ran two successful Safeguarding Training days with Safeguarding Expert Ann Marie Christian. www.annmariechristian.com.
- In July, we were lucky enough to offer our member guardianship organisations a sales training session with Nicola Lutz, owner of www.nofluff.biz. Nicola has 23 years of experience in sales training and international education, and is also Director of StudyTravel.
- We would like to congratulate Connexcel and Guardians International Support for gaining full AEGIS accreditation; and Sutherland Education Ltd for gaining AEGIS re-accreditation. Further re-accreditations are underway.
- We would like to welcome City of London Freeman's School, Radley College, Cherwell College Oxford, Ashwicke Hall School, and DLD College London who have all recently joined AEGIS.
- Yasemin will be attending ST Alphe Secondary Focus Frankfurt 5-7 October 2018 and ST Alphe Secondary Focus Hong Kong 27 February – 1 March 2019. Do come along to the AEGIS stand and say hello!
- Yasemin will be running guardianship training sessions with the BSA on 18 October 2018 and 19 March 2019 in London. www.boarding.org.uk/media/calendar/event/4774/Guardianship

Thank you to all our member Schools and
Guardianship Organisations for your continued support.

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