



## Welcome!

We hope to keep you informed on a more regular basis with our new e-newsletter.

The last year has been very busy and we would like to thank all members of the Committees and Sub-Committees for giving their time so generously in helping to shape the future of AEGIS. In January, a very lively meeting of Guardian Organisations, with almost 100% attendance of accredited GOs, provided the opportunity for members to raise concerns, contribute ideas and share good practice. More recently, an excellent conference held at St Edward's in Oxford, which focused on the integration of international students in host families and schools, gave us all much food for thought.

Much time has been devoted to raising the profile of AEGIS in the educational community. Meetings with Matthew Burgess (ISC), Durell Barnes (ISI) and a presentation to the ISC Secretariat provided the opportunity to explain the essential work done by AEGIS and its accredited members in supporting the very best practice in safeguarding children. Attendance at the British Boarding Schools Workshop and direct contact with schools has also increased awareness.

Our next exciting venture is our office move. We are very close to signing the lease for our new office which will be located adjacent to the M5 near Stroud. The office will provide more working space, meeting rooms and easy accessibility. As soon as the legalities are finalised we will send out contact and location details.

Our thanks go to all those who have given support over the last year.

**Alison Blythe**  
Chairman of the Trustees

**Ros Hayes**  
Chairman of the Advisory Committee



## AEGIS

Association for the Education and Guardianship of International Students

- Bringing together schools and Guardianship Organisations to ensure and promote the welfare of international students, aged 18 or under, studying at UK boarding schools
- Providing a forum for best practice
- Inspecting and accrediting UK Guardianship Organisations
- Promoting quality guardianship, resulting in safe and happy children



## New Office

By the time you read this we hope to be in our new office at Bond's Mill Estate. Bond's Mill is located alongside the A419, only 1.3 miles from Junction 13 of the M5, providing easy access to the M4 and M5. Trains run regularly from Stonehouse and Stroud.

Bond's Mill was formerly one of the major woollen mills in the Stroud Valleys. The site offers car parking, a meeting room and café, so you will be welcome to stop by once we have settled in!



## Spring Conference

St Edward's, Oxford, kindly hosted our very successful and fully attended April conference on 'International Student Perspectives'. Delegates from 15 independent schools and 25 Guardianship companies attended.

Our main speakers were, Dr Tom Hughes, Educational and Child Psychologist, who gave an analysis of the psychology of belonging and its significance for international students, and Phil Hardaker, Vice Principal at International College, Sherborne, who spoke about the difficulties faced by international students and how guardians can help. An equally informative talk was given by Tom James, Sub Warden at St Edward's and ISI inspector, covering the rigours of inspections in schools that provide their own guardianship service.

Several international students recounted their experiences of guardians, including **Emma Cheng from Hong Kong, Year 12 of St Edward's**;

"Boarding schools now offer immaculate pastoral care; it is mainly over the holidays when we need our guardians the most.

On top of school work, there is nothing worse than having to worry about meeting new host families or feeling like an intruder at a stranger's house when all your friends are going home with their parents. Fortunately, my host family has given me a very lovely second home in England. They are not only my host family, but also my 'parents'; they meet my friends, come to my house shows and take me to London. Even ordinary routines like taking me grocery shopping and going out for a walk make me feel welcomed and at home. It is astonishing how easily and rapidly a relationship can form over two years and because of them I have never felt homesick or lonely. For that I am very thankful to the guardianship company and it is what I would expect for other students in the future."

Thank you Lana Foster of Bright World Guardianships Ltd [www.brightworld.co.uk](http://www.brightworld.co.uk) for designing the conference programme and Will Hume of White House Guardianships [www.whg.eu.com](http://www.whg.eu.com) for the programme printing.

**If you can recommend a conference speaker or would like to host an AEGIS conference, we would love to hear from you via [Yasemin@aegisuk.net](mailto:Yasemin@aegisuk.net).**

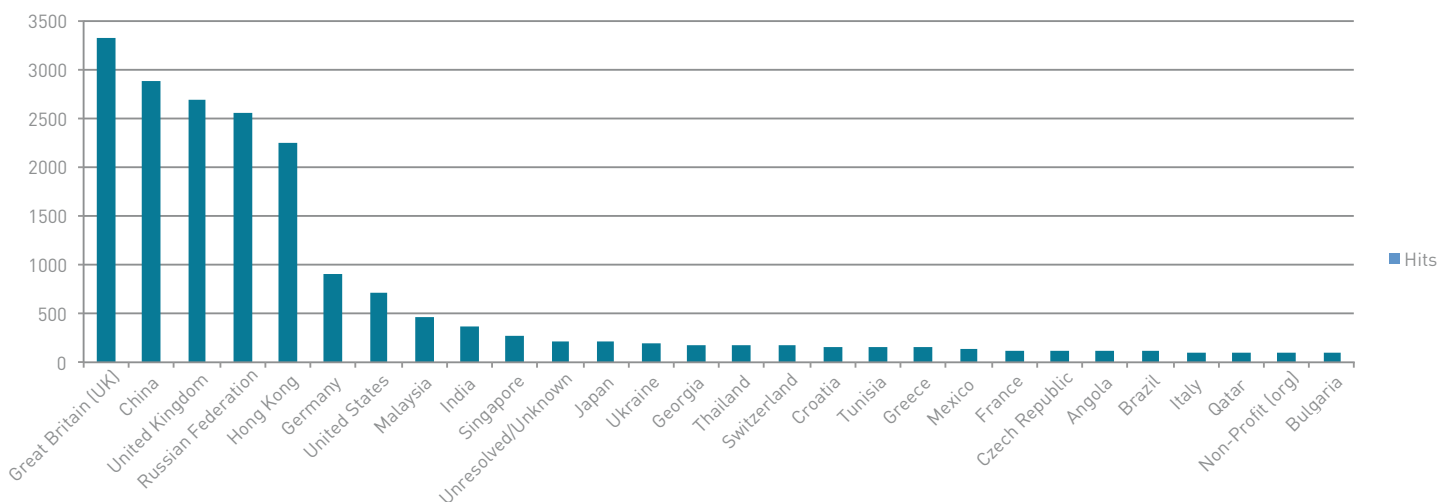
## Website Gets A Revamp

March 2014 saw the launch of our new look website [www.aegisuk.net](http://www.aegisuk.net). All AEGIS members have a profile listed on the website with the facility to add a colour photograph and details of their Guardianship Organisation or school. If you have not yet taken advantage of this feature, please contact [Yasemin@aegisuk.net](mailto:Yasemin@aegisuk.net) for details.

The website statistics look promising with 9307 visits for March and April.



## Breakdown of Hits by Top 30 of 82 Countries April 2014



## International Student Success Story - A True All-Rounder

Heorhiy from Ukraine, known to everyone at Padworth College as George, joined Year 11 in 2011 when he was 15 and embarked on a one year GCSE course with English Language support provided by the team of specialist teachers. He quickly became popular with both staff and his fellow students showing real enthusiasm for school life and early signs of leadership potential combined with sensitivity towards, and awareness of, others in the College. He is a keen runner, a member of the Running Club, as well as a regular user of the School Gym.

George is studying for A levels in Economics, Russian, Sociology and Mathematics. In Year 13, George was chosen to be the Head Boy of the College. Principal, John Aguilar said, "George is an excellent ambassador for the College and anyone who meets him cannot fail to be hugely impressed by his many qualities. He has worked hard throughout his years at Padworth and I firmly believe that there is an exciting future ahead for him."

His aim now is to go to a British university to study Economics and Finance and he has received firm offers from Exeter University and UEA.



George in Ukrainian national dress for international evening



## Appeal For Books For Philippine School Project

Alison Blythe, Chairman of the Trustees and Director of Students International, visited Cebu and Leyte Island, Philippines in April 2014 in connection with a planned project to pipe fresh potable water to a village. The project began 18 months before, but was hindered by the devastating earthquake of October 2013, followed a few weeks later by the Haiyan (or Yolanda) Cyclone. People are living in shacks with no running water or power. Children are being taught in tents on their former play areas and are in desperate need of books and learning equipment.

**We are urgently appealing for ANY text books in English, Mathematics, Biology, Physics and Chemistry. For further information please contact Alison Blythe [Studentsint@aol.com](mailto:Studentsint@aol.com).**

## AEGIS Welcomes New Recruit

Yasemin Wigglesworth joined AEGIS in August 2012, assisting Janet Bowman, Administration Manager, on a part-time basis. After attending Stamford High School, Yasemin studied French & Italian at Manchester University and a Post Graduate Certificate in Business & I.T. at Manchester Business School. Previously working in international student recruitment, Yasemin set up and ran an English Language School, before moving to Stroud in 2006 where she lives with her husband and two sons. Having spent her early years in Istanbul and studied and worked in France and Italy, Yasemin has valuable insight into the experience of studying abroad.



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