



AEGIS is expanding – a message from The Trustees

In February the Guardianship Organisations, school members and Trustees bid a fond “au revoir” and thank you to Janet Bowman who retired after running the office for nearly 18 years, ably assisted by Dave. We all owe a lot to Janet as without her AEGIS would not now be at the threshold of the welcome next stage of its development.

18 months ago Ros Hayes and one of the Trustees met with Durell Barnes, ISI to discuss AEGIS and how to become better recognised. One of his suggestions was to make the inspection process more independent. As a result, interviews took place in April to appoint a Chief Inspector who will head up the Inspectorate body. The appointee will take up the most valuable work done by Danice Iles in shaping the inspection process since the founding of AEGIS. Every Guardianship Organisation and child in our care has an unquantifiable debt of gratitude to Danice.

In January 2014 a meeting was held for the Guardianship Organisations, giving them an opportunity to meet each other and hear about future plans. It was deemed a great success and we are proposing to hold a similar meeting which will be an opportunity to hear about ongoing plans and meet the new Chief Inspector, some of the Trustees and members of the Advisory Committee. It is strongly recommended that every Guardianship Organisation has a representative at this meeting as accreditation by AEGIS also requires active participation in meetings and conferences. The date and venue are to be confirmed.

Aileen Kane, Head of Communications at Boarding Schools' Association (BSA) “The selection of a suitable guardian is arguably as important as the choice of school.”

British boarding schools continue to be recognised globally as some of the best educational institutes in the world, with a history of educational excellence, diverse extra-curricular activities and opportunities to make lifelong friendships.

The choice to study in the UK not only provides access to one of the world's best education systems but also delivers students the opportunity for a unique and life-changing experience. The Boarding Schools' Association (BSA) strongly recommends that international students under the age of 18 studying at a British boarding school have a guardian, to ensure transition and ongoing care is as smooth and supportive as possible. The majority of independent schools make the appointment of a local guardian a condition of admission.

The guardian acts in loco parentis to ensure the safeguarding and well-being of the pupil whilst living away from home. The appointment of a guardian will not only ease the transition for the child but will provide peace of mind for parents living overseas.

Responsibilities of a guardian are varied, and include acting as the main point of contact in case of sickness or disciplinary action, be responsible for travel to and from school, attending parents' evenings and other such events and are the main local contact between school and home. Alongside these responsibilities pupils will typically spend exeat and holidays with their guardian if they do not return home, or if the parents are unable to come to the UK.

The selection of a suitable guardian is arguably as important as the choice of school. Guardians accredited by AEGIS (Association for the Education and Guardianship of International Students) have met a number of inspection criteria and will ensure peace of mind for parents, enabling their child to get on with the business of school.





Youren Yu outside Sidcot School

International Success Story - Youren Yu, Sidcot School

Youren Yu joined Sidcot from Shanghai aged 16 and studied Chemistry, Economics, Mathematics and Further Mathematics at A Level. Last Summer he received A* and A grades in every subject and was awarded a place to study Mathematics at Oxford University. But this is not Youren's sole achievement. Based on his application to an independent charitable trust, Youren was presented with a Travel Scholarship to travel around China as an ambassador for his generation at Sidcot School.

Further proof that Sidcot encourages students to live adventurously beyond the classroom - Youren completed a four day walking expedition in wild country and was awarded his Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award where he met Prince Edward at St James's Palace!

Jess Winchester
Development & Alumni Manager, Sidcot School



Suzanne Rowse, Director of British Boarding Schools Workshop, Analysis of the ISC 2015 Census

The good news is that overall the number of non-British boarders has increased, which is testament to the world class education that British boarding schools offer.

There are now 27,211 non-British pupils whose parents live overseas at the 1,267 member schools. Using comparative data from the 1,234 schools which were members in 2014 and 2015, this represents an increase of 3.6%. There are 70,642 boarding pupils at ISC schools, making up 14% of total pupil numbers. At those schools completing census returns in both 2014 and 2015, the number of boarding pupils rose by 1.0%.

The number of pupils who were new to their schools this academic year has decreased in several key regions (France, Germany, Russia, Spain, the remainder of Europe EEA and non-EEA, Nigeria, Middle East, Hong Kong, and South Korea), reflecting the impact of political instability in some countries, the devaluation of currencies and the strength of the pound.

Not surprisingly, China has taken over Hong Kong as the largest market for the total number of pupils (5,142 and up 17.5%) and the number of new pupils (2,506 and up 20.2%). Hong Kong is down in terms of the number of new pupils (1,574 and -6.6%) and by the total number of pupils (4,655 and -1.0%). According to the British Council, the recent decline in pupils from Hong Kong is mainly attributable to a decline in the number of school age children and the fact that fewer civil servants can now claim an overseas education allowance for their children.

Thailand has remained buoyant. The total number of pupils from Thailand is 679, up 16.3% and the number of new pupils is 279, up 16.7%.

Other areas of growth are Central Asia with 177 new boarders and up 22.1%. The key player in this category is Kazakhstan. The Remainder of the Far East category has also shown growth with 339 new boarders and up 14.9% (up 44 pupils). This category includes Singapore, Macau and Brunei but based on agent activity I would expect the growth to be coming from Vietnam.

REMINDER:

It is a legal requirement for Guardianship Organisations to notify their local authority about children, under 16 years of age, staying with host families for more than 28 days.

Conferences well attended by school and Guardianship Organisation staff

Our successful conference on 'Cultural Awareness and Communication' was held at Sedbergh School in November 2014 and repeated at Felsted School in April 2015. The programme included a workshop by Ann Muston, The Leys, on bullying within cultural groups and between cultural groupings; a talk on the Pastoral Partnership by Francis Walker of Sherborne International; and Cultural Differences by Richard Levinge and Linde Melhuish of Ease Training.

The conferences were well attended by both school and Guardianship Organisation staff and the atmosphere lent itself well to audience participation and the sharing of experiences. Planning for the next AEGIS conference is underway, watch this space!



From left to right: Richard Levinge, Linde Melhuish, Louise Churchill-Brewer, Suzie Mackie, Yasemin Wigglesworth



Changes to the UK visa system – Mark Taylor, The Taylor Partnership

To meet EU regulations everyone entering the UK for more than 6 months must be issued with a BRP (Biometric Resident Permit – a credit card shaped plastic visa).

British Embassies and High Commissions will, therefore, issue a 30 day visa in a passport. Recipients must enter the UK within that 30 day period.

The decision letter – sent by the Embassy/High Commission with the return of the passport – will state where the BRP can be collected. It is strongly recommended that students travel with this letter.

For most schools the intention is that the BRPs will be delivered to the school. However, the BRP may have to be collected from a specific post office. For those who have to collect their BRP it is suggested that the BRP should be collected within 10 days of arrival. However, the BRP will remain at the Post Office for 60 days.

Furthermore, a new NHS surcharge has been introduced. This is medical insurance and the cost is £150 per annum. The fee must be paid before the application is submitted.

AEGIS asked Maureen Lee, educational agent and founder of IHP Educational Services, how overseas agents explain the cost of guardianship to international parents?

“Although guardianship may cost a lot of money, it is greatly beneficial to parents with children studying overseas.

Quite often, the parents have no friends or family in the UK and naturally turn to the school for advice. Parents should spend time choosing a guardian to ensure their child is well cared for overseas.”

News

- Congratulations to Castle Guardians, Academic Guardians, Aquae Sulis, PJ's Guardianship Services, UK Study Centre and English Country Guardians, who all gained full AEGIS accreditation this academic year. Heritage Educational Planning successfully gained re-accreditation, one of the founding members of AEGIS. So far 85% of applicants undergoing inspections have been successful. Many more inspections are underway!
- AEGIS will be attending the Alphe Secondary Focus 2015 workshop in Frankfurt, 2-4 October 2015. AEGIS member schools and Guardianship Organisations will receive discounted rates at Alphe workshops, attracting educational agents from all over the world - 80% of which are looking to work with UK boarding schools.

Click here to visit the website 

- Over the last 3 months, the AEGIS website received an average of 11,369 visits per month from 90 countries. AEGIS members - update your AEGIS profile now if you have not already done so!



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

 Follow us on Twitter @ukaegis

The Wheelhouse, Bond's Mill Estate,
Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, GL10 3RF
+ 44 1453 821293

List of AEGIS Accredited Guardianship Organisations

Abacus Guardians – Mrs R Mott

Royal Well House, West Malvern Road, Malvern, Worcestershire WR14 4EW
Telephone: +44(0)1684 561192
Email: mail@abacusguardians.co.uk www.abacusguardians.co.uk

Academic Guardians UK Ltd – Dawn Kettle

Suite 11, Penhurst House
352-356 Battersea Park Road, London SW11 3BY
Telephone: +44 (0) 203 515880
Email: info@academic-guardians.co.uk www.academicguardians.co.uk

Acorn Education Services Ltd - Mr & Mrs J Hodnett

6 The Grange, Coombe Dingle, Bristol BS9 2RD
Telephone: +44 (0) 117 4011938
Email: moonjoo@acorn-es.co.uk www.acorn-es.co.uk

Alpha Plus Guardian Services - Mr and Mrs R Youdale

41 Essex Street, Oxford. OX4 3AW
Telephone: +44 (0) 1865 428320
Email: oxford@alphaplusguardians.co.uk www.alphaplusguardians.co.uk

Aquae Sulis Guardians – Jayne Drew

Roman Lodge Farm, Lansdown, Bath, BA1 9BJ
Telephone: +44 (0) 1225 446588
Email: jayne@asguardians.co.uk www.aquaesulisguardians.co.uk

Bright World Guardianships Ltd - Lana Foster

Forge House, 105 High Street, Hurstpierpoint West Sussex, BN6 9PU
Telephone: +44(0) 1273 835745/833854
Email: lana@brightworld.co.uk www.brightworld.co.uk

Cambridge Guardian Angels Ltd – Julia Evans

8 The Drift, Oakington, Cambridge, CB24 3AD
Telephone: +44 (0) 1223 233204
Email: julia@cambridge-guardian-angels.com www.cambridge-guardian-angels.com

Carfax Educational Guardians – Ms A Bashkirova

25 Beaumont Street, Oxford, OX1 1NP
Telephone: +44 (0) 1865 514938 Fax: +44 (0) 1865 724736
Email: A.Bashkirova@carfax-consultants.com www.carfax-consultants.com

Castle Guardians – Louise Handley and Jayne Appleby

Keppel House, Dale Road, Forest Row, East Sussex, RH18 5BP
Telephone: +44 333 5660023
Email: office@castleguardians.co.uk www.castleguardians.co.uk

Clarendon International Education - Dr I D M Iles

41 Clarendon Square, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire. CV32 5QZ
Telephone: +44 (0) 1926 316793
Email: clarendon@clarendon.uk.com www.clarendon.uk.com

College Guardians – Mrs J Eldridge

College Road, Malvern, Worcestershire WR14 3DF
Telephone: +44 (0) 1684 581600
Email: jane@collegeguardians.co.uk www.collegeguardians.co.uk

Cotswold Guardians - Anne Sharp

Richmond, London Road, Fairford, Gloucestershire, GL7 4DS
Telephone: +44 (0) 1285 711789
Email: anne@cotswold-guardians.co.uk www.cotswold-guardians.co.uk

English Country Guardians - Joanna Winstanley

2 The Maltings, Oxted, Surrey, RH8 9DZ
Telephone: +44 (0) 1883 712782
Email: enquiries@english-country-guardians.co.uk
www.english-country-guardians.co.uk

Gateway Guardianship UK Ltd – Katie Cross

4 Darnell Way, Moulton Park, Northampton NN3 6RW
Telephone: +44 (0) 1604 642 082
Email: Katie@gateway-education.co.uk www.gateway-education.co.uk

Guardians UK - Mrs A Warne

Staplegrave Road, Taunton, Somerset TA2 6AD
Telephone: +44 (0) 1823 348140
Email: info@guardiansuk.com www.guardiansuk.com

Heart of England Guardianship Services - Ms J Fox

29 Beauty Bank, Cradley Heath, West Midlands B64 7HZ
Telephone: +44 (0) 1384 413401
Email: judith@judithfox.co.uk www.HEGS.org.uk

Heritage Educational Planning – Mrs A Lane

Bridge House, 1-2 Station Bridge, Harrogate, N. Yorkshire HG1 1SS
Telephone: +44 (0) 1423 520126
Email: info@heritage-education.co.uk www.heritage-education.co.uk

High Schools International – Ms R Nelson

1 Frederick Terrace, Frederick Place, Brighton BN1 1AX
Telephone: +44 (0) 1273 711606
Email: rnelson@hsinet.org www.hsinet.org

James-Lee Consultancy – Mrs Irene Lee

41 Ulleswater Road, Southgate, London, N14 7BL
Telephone: +44 (0) 20 8886 5300
Email: info@jamesleeconsultancy.com www.jamesleeconsultancy.com

Living Learning English – Alison Jost or Hayley Coles

27 Portland Square, Bristol, BS2 8SA
Telephone: +44(0) 117 9269410
Email: info@livinglearningenglish.com
www.livinglearningenglish.com/guardians

Mission Links Educational Consultants - Mr H Chiu

35 Alfreton Road, Selston, Nottingham, NG16 6DL
Telephone: +44 (0) 1773 583388
Email: herman@mission-links.com www.mission-links.com

Overseas Personal Development Services – Ms Sunny Field

40c Waddington Avenue, Old Coulsdon, Surrey, CR5 1QF
Telephone: +44 (0) 20 86608869
Email: info@opds.co.uk www.opds.co.uk www.opds.cn

Overseas Student Guardianship – Mrs S Flint

95 Westbury Road, New Malden, Surrey. KT3 5AL
Telephone: +44 (0) 20 89420745
Email: susyflint@aol.com

Parents Abroad – Mr J Wright

13 Park Street Windsor, Berkshire SL4 1LU
Telephone: +44 (0) 1753 852001
Email: guardianship@parentsabroad.co.uk www.parentsabroad.co.uk

Pippa's Guardians – Mr Ben Hughes

The Wyche Innovation Centre, Walwyn Rd, Upper Colwall, Malvern, Worcs WR13 6PL
Telephone: +44 (0) 1684 252757
Email: ben@pippasguardians.co.uk www.pippasguardians.co.uk

PJ's Guardianship Services – Kirsty Farquhar

25 Watts Corner, Glastonbury, Somerset, BA6 8FD
Telephone: +44 (0) 1458 830839
Email: contact@pjsguardianship.com www.pjsguardianship.com

Quest Guardians Ltd - Mr C Michelmore

Alexander House, 2 Acorn Business Park, Ling Road, Poole, BH12 4NZ
Telephone: +44 (0)1202 882299
Email: chris@questguardians.co.uk www.questguardians.co.uk

SKD Education and Guardianship Ltd - Ms S Studdert-Kennedy

25 Tonsley Hill, London SW18 1BE
Telephone: +44 (0) 20 8871 3057
Email: ssk@skd.co.uk www.skd.co.uk

Students International Ltd - Mrs A Blythe

Tresillian House, 67 Dalby Road, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire LE13 0TQ
Telephone: +44 (0) 1664
Email: studentsint@aol.com www.studentsint.com/guardianship

Study Links International – Mrs A Fan

6 Carr Lane, Bradford, W Yorkshire, BD12 0QS
Telephone: +44(0) 1274 679710
Email: angela@studylinks.co.uk www.studylinks.co.uk

Sutherland Education Ltd - Mr A Sutherland

392-394 Ewell Road, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 7BB
Telephone: +44 (0) 20 8390 8810
Email: contact@sutherland-education.com www.sutherland-education.com

UK China Students Union – Ms K Liang

34 Queens Road, Brighton, East Sussex BN1 3XB
Telephone: +44(0) 1273 710745
Email: Kelly@ucsu.org.uk www.ucsu.com.cn

UK2Learn – Mrs A Mackie

Crossways, Heath Lane, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1UN
Telephone: +44 (0) 1483 425500
Email: info@uk2learn.com www.uk2learn.com

UK Study Centre Ltd (English Guardian) – Alex Nanian

44C Highgate High Street, London N6 5JG
Telephone: +44 (0) 2033 977 744
Email: info@ukstudycentre.com www.ukstudycentre.com

White House Guardianships - Mr & Mrs D Hume

711-715 Wimborne Road, Bournemouth, Dorset BH9 2AU
Telephone: +44(0) 845 868 66 88
Email: info@whg.eu.com www.whg.eu.com