



## 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

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# List of AEGIS Accredited Guardianship Organisations

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## Academic Guardians UK Ltd – Dawn Kettle

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## Aquae Sulis Guardians – Jayne Drew

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## Bright World Guardianships Ltd - Lana Foster

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## Cambridge Guardian Angels Ltd – Julia Evans

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## Heart of England Guardianship Services - Ms J Fox

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## Heritage Educational Planning – Mrs A Lane

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## High Schools International – Ms R Nelson

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## James-Lee Consultancy – Mrs Irene Lee

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## Living Learning English – Alison Jost or Hayley Coles

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## Mission Links Educational Consultants - Mr H Chiu

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## Overseas Student Guardianship – Mrs S Flint

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## Parents Abroad – Mr J Wright

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## Pippa's Guardians – Mr Ben Hughes

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