



Welcome to the spring edition of the AEGIS newsletter. We are all facing unprecedented times dealing with the Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, both on a personal and work level, and AEGIS would like to send you all our best wishes and thanks for your hard work in dealing with international students during this difficult situation. It is our mission to safeguard international students and promote best practice in the sector. We will continue to share information and support you. Remember we are here if you need us. Please stay safe and well, and most importantly continue to take care of each other.



**Adam Lubbock**

## NEWS INSIDE

- New Preliminary Member level and logos
- Your Favourite Teacher - free virtual learning
- Member guardianship organisation news
- Member school news
- AEGIS news - new members, free webinars and our exciting new conference in November
- News of our nomination for Association in the ST Secondary School Awards.

## Introducing our new AEGIS Chair

It is an absolute pleasure to be writing this as the new Chair of AEGIS. I was raised within a boarding school and with my parents both as house parents, I came to see just how important the family environment and care is for international students.

Having built up positive relations with a number of guardians, it became clear that most of those who became trusted and took the relevant interest in the child were in fact AEGIS accredited. My interest in appropriate guardianship then increased and a few years later became I was appointed AEGIS Trustee.

The AEGIS office and Trustees have been extremely busy, and a great deal of work is being undertaken to support guardianship organisations and schools.

You may be aware that the new Boarding Minimum Standards is due for release. It is wonderful to be able to say that AEGIS has been listened to and that the area of guardianship is truly on the table at the highest level. Yasemin organised a sector meeting in January which engaged education associations, inspectorates and representations from the government. This was a great success on the back of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) in October 2019. IICSA had a spotlight on guardianship with the second phase due in May 2020. An interim report is estimated to be published in 2021 which puts forward suggestions to ministers.

To conclude, AEGIS is in a very healthy position and we will continue to make great strides through the second half of 2020. The key message really is for us to embrace our wonderful charity and look forward to working together with other organisations as we go forward. We are really positive about the future and the engagement from all our members is very important to us.

Thank you for your support over the last year.

**Adam Lubbock - AEGIS Chair**

*Read more about Adam and his appointment on our blog pages*

## AEGIS PRELIMINARY MEMBERSHIP ACCREDITATION

### New full guardianship member logo and new school member logo

AEGIS is moving into an exciting new phase and we have many plans to introduce to you over the coming months. The first of which we are pleased to be announcing here.

**AEGIS Preliminary Membership Accreditation** is now awarded to all guardianship organisations that have successfully completed stage one of the inspection process.

AEGIS accreditation inspections are carried out in two stages by experienced, independent inspectors who will determine if the guardianship organisation is meeting all the requirements set out in the AEGIS Inspection Handbook and Guardianship Organisation Minimum Standards (the AEGIS "Minimum Standards").

The Minimum Standards have been formally ratified by a solicitor and can be viewed as the gold standard in quality safeguarding and best practice. They form the framework of AEGIS accreditation and re-accreditation inspections.

Stage one is a rigorous scrutiny of the written policies and procedures that a guardianship organisation is required to submit to their inspector. You will now know that whenever you see the AEGIS Preliminary Accreditation logo you can be reassured that the documentation produced by this guardianship organisation is of the highest standard, that they follow safer recruitment procedures, and that they are working towards full accreditation by AEGIS.

The focus of stage two of the inspection is on the implementation of the policies and procedures and the working practices of the organisation.

Alongside this, we are introducing a new logo for our accredited guardianship organisations and school and university members. These will be sent to all members over the coming weeks. Guardianship organisations and schools who join AEGIS are showing a strong commitment to the safety and wellbeing of international students.

To find out more about the AEGIS Preliminary Accreditation scheme, AEGIS accreditation or school membership, please contact the AEGIS office where our friendly staff will be pleased to help you.

**Sharon Sverdlhoff, AEGIS Inspections Administrator**



**Sharon Sverdlhoff**



**Click to read about and enrol on our FREE Inspection Webinars being held in May and June 2020**



**Kate Meeks**

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*"We have been overwhelmed with the response – it is fantastic to see that we have over 150 AEGIS students using our GCSE online learning platform. It is also encouraging to see how committed these students are with many of them logging on daily to use it. I am impressed by how motivated students are."*

## YOUR FAVOURITE TEACHER

### Academic support for guardian families

All AEGIS guardianship organisations have been offered complimentary logins for the award winning GCSE online learning platform, YourFavouriteTeacher.

YourFavouriteTeacher, recently shortlisted for Secondary School Education Resources Awards 2020, was founded in 2018 by ex -English Teacher, Kate Meeks (pictured) and is used by pupils in over 1000 schools in the UK.

Kate said:

"Our platform is used in football academies and schools across the UK – last year was our first year of results and we were delighted to see how well children who used our platform did.

When the COVID-19 outbreak started we realised that we were in a real position to help children and schools. We therefore developed a range of complimentary work booklets and courses to keep children on track. Working with AEGIS and hearing the plight of overseas students who were struggling to get home, or being subjected to two weeks in quarantine it seemed a natural step to offer our platform free to AEGIS members."

YourFavouriteTeacher has over five hundred hours of learning, delivered via online lessons and quizzes. All lessons are provided by experienced teachers and cover the entire GCSE curriculum for AQA/Edexcel Maths, English Language, English Literature and most of science. The platform works on any device, which is of particular interest at the moment given many children do not have access to their laptops or usual working environment. In response to the outbreak YFT have also produce downloadable work booklets in order to give children a break from continuously looking at the screen.

Students are able to watch and learn at their own pace, pausing when they wish. This is proving a valuable asset to those children for whom English is an additional language as online lessons can often be at a quicker pace than real lessons, due to the lack of class interruptions. Therefore the opportunity to revisit or pause learning is proving very useful.

### It's not too late

Any AEGIS members who have not yet taken up this offer, or for any schools who might be interested in seeing how it could compliment their current online learning to students, please email:

[alicia@yourfavouriteteacher.com](mailto:alicia@yourfavouriteteacher.com)

There is also a complimentary 30 hour timetable with online lessons, workbooks and resources available for those who register at:

[www.yourfavouriteteacher.com](http://www.yourfavouriteteacher.com)



# AEGIS MEMBER GUARDIANSHIP ORGANISATION NEWS

## BRIGHT WORLD GUARDIANSHIPS

### Coronavirus - why guardians have never been more needed

As guardians it is our job to keep our students safe during the school holidays but with the Coronavirus outbreak restricting student travel home, we have never been more needed.

In March, UK Government announced the closure of Schools across the country and along with the news a domino effect followed suit. With schools closing by the hour and the uncertainty of how and if students could make it back to their own countries, we just do not know where our international boarders would be without the support provided by AEGIS member guardianship organisations.

Collaborations with schools has been reassuring and productive for the guardianship sector. We have been so pleased with some of the messages received from schools across the country.

Some of our students have sadly been turned away from their flights due to restrictions from their home countries prohibiting their journeys. Where students are unable to travel, parents can rest assured that they will be well looked after and safe. Our families are well briefed with the AEGIS Host Family Coronavirus Contingency Plan which sits in line with Public Health England guidance for self-isolation. At Bright World we all feel that the COVID-19 situation has highlighted the sheer necessity of AEGIS Guardianship.

**Charlotte Hamson, Director of Sales & Marketing, Bright World Guardianships**



**Charlotte Hamson**

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*"I have been very impressed by the systems in place at Bright World. With all the concerns about Coronavirus, it is good to know that our pupils are supported by a reliable and organized agency such as Bright World."*

**A happy houseparent**



**Ben Hughes**

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*"Our primary concern, as always, is the wellbeing of our students, their parents and our host families, and we are doing our utmost to support them all during this difficult time."*

## PIPPA'S GUARDIANS

### What an interesting and turbulent start to the year it has been

At Pippa's Guardians, we have been following the fast-moving developments of the Coronavirus with great care. Unfortunately, it seems inevitable that numbers infected and the death toll will continue to rise.

Our primary concern, as always, is the wellbeing of our students, their parents and our host families, and we are doing our utmost to support them all during this difficult time. We know, of course, it is a hugely worrying period for our families and customers.

Throughout this, we have been carefully monitoring the communication from our partner schools and the Boarding Schools Association, and prior to the UK recommendations to work from home, we held regular meetings in our Malvern head office to thoroughly prepare for any required actions. Our partner schools have also been prompt to act.

We have also been communicating regularly with all of our schools, host families and parents and obviously continue to carefully digest the reports from Public Health England, the World Health Organisation and the Boarding Schools Association. Our team of Area Managers are closely monitoring the wellbeing of our students and the Pippa's travel team are coordinating our students' regularly changing movements.

At this worrying time for our Asian customers, we want to assure them all of our best efforts at all times, and to send them all our very best wishes.

**Ben Hughes, Managing Director, Pippa's Guardians**





**Will Hume**



*"To keep days structured, producing a home schooling schedule will also definitely help."*

## WHITE HOUSE GUARDIANS

### Handy tips and ideas for students staying with homestays

- ✓ Teach their host family some of their own language
- ✓ Offer to help in the garden, plant seeds for home produce – even plant a tree and each year, when they visit they can see how much it has grown over the years
- ✓ Give a talk to the host family on their home town/city to tell their host family more about themselves, e.g. any similarities between St Albans and Beijing
- ✓ Learn to bake a British Victoria sponge cake
- ✓ Show the host family how to make a typical dish from their home
- ✓ Introduce the host family to their own family via skype, each person saying something brief about themselves so that everyone knows something about each other. e.g. My name is Becky and I love baking cakes

### Online resources include

BrainPop, Curiosity Stream, Tynker, Outschool, Udemy, iReady, Beast Academy (Math), Khan Academy, Creative Bug and Discovery Education.

#### Suitable YouTube Channels include:

Crash Course Kids; Science Channel; SciShow Kids; National Geographic Kids; Free School; Geography Focus; TheBrainScoop; SciShow; and Kids Learning Tube.

- Chatterpack** Virtual online museum tours, online learning etc...
- Daily PE for kids** Free online yoga and exercise classes
- Online origami**
- Scholastic** Free learn-from-home site with 20+ days of learning & activities
- Museum Tours** Virtual tours of 12 famous museums

#### More awesome free learning websites that we like to use include:

- [www.starfall.com](http://www.starfall.com)
- [www.abcya.com](http://www.abcya.com)
- [www.funbrain.com](http://www.funbrain.com)
- [pbskids.org](http://pbskids.org)
- [www.scouts.org.uk](http://www.scouts.org.uk)

**Will Hume, Marketing Director, White House Guardians**



## BOSSS GUARDIANS

### Han-Yu Yin from China

It's always a wonderful experience for us to follow our students' academic progress throughout their adult education. Watching them flourish and become the person they are today is very humbling indeed. 14-year-old Han-Yu arrived in the UK in September 2007, she settled quickly and happily in Bournemouth under the care and guardianship of BOSSS Guardians.

After completing her GCSEs and then A Levels in Maths, Chemistry and Physics Han-Yu secured a place at Loughborough University. Over the years Han-Yu studied a degree in Maths, a Masters in Financial Mathematics and finally a PHD in applied Mathematics. Driven by zest and dedication to learn, Han-Yu has completed her academic career with flying colours and is graduating this year.

**Mrs Jo Baird, Marketing & Events Director, BOSSS Guardians**

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*In Han-Yu's own words she says "Studying in the UK has, I believe, provided me with an excellent opportunity to become proficient in the English language as well as allowing me to live within another culture and share my experiences with friends from around the world."*

## CONNEXCEL LTD

### Rose from Shanghai

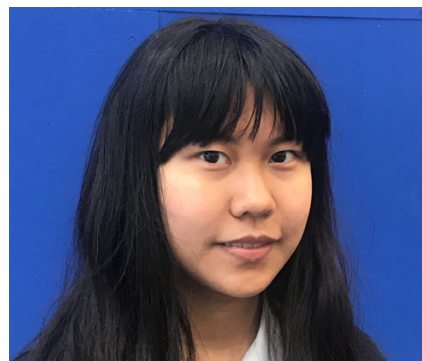
As a guardianship organisation, we actively encourage our students to make the most of their time at a UK school as we feel this is the most effective way to integrate and start their journey of personal development.

Rose, who is from Shanghai, started school in September 2018 on a one-year GCSE course. Not only did she settle quickly and effectively to her studies, Rose threw herself into school life and took full advantage of many of the wonderful co-curricular activities on offer, trying out new clubs and sports such as Lacrosse.

Rose had a magnificent year! She gained a fabulous set of GCSE results with 5 grade 9's and an A in English Language. She finished the academic year with several awards including the prestigious Hiscock's STEM Trophy, the Year 11 Chemistry award, the EAL Award, several Mathematics awards and an academic scholarship for Mathematics and Physics. She also found time to pass a LAMDA Level 4 award with merit and is planning on taking an ABRSM singing award.

We are very proud of Rose, as is her host parent Elaine, who provides a home from home for Rose during holiday times. We absolutely recognise the positive influence of a good host family for our students and encourage parents to visit the host families if they are visiting the UK to seal the relationship and forge strong bonds. Rose is aiming to remain in the UK for university where she hopes to complete a degree in Architecture. We have no doubt she will make this dream a reality!

**Julie Ann Morse, Senior Education Consultant, Connexcel Ltd**





## HEATHFIELD SCHOOL

### How to prepare your child for boarding

Choosing to educate your child at boarding school is one of the most important and life-changing decisions you can make – and often it is a step into the unknown for both parent and child. Helping your child to build a realistic picture of what to expect and encouraging them to develop their own strategies to deal with the practical, emotional and social aspects of living away from home are key to a happy and successful transition.

### Gather practical information

Boarding prides itself on being a holistic partnership between child, family and school - so planning ahead to ease the transition is a team effort. Today boarding schools need to be flexible in accommodating the many demands and complexities of modern family life; 'full boarding' no longer means staying away from home for months at a time and there are often several weekend exeat during term time, in addition to regular opportunities to phone home.

Reading through the school's boarding handbooks or guides well in advance will give your child a good overview of practical information.

### Experience the surroundings

'Taster days' and overnight stays are an excellent way for your child to become more familiar with the school staff, routines and surroundings and will help him or her to form a more concrete idea of what to expect.

At Heathfield we establish a 'shadow system' during these early visits - they are a great point of reference for girls when they start in September. All the new cohort is welcomed to a school sleepover in June, when they mix with current boarders and get a true taste of the structure of the school day, facilities, extra-curricular activities, support network and 24/7 pastoral care.

It is a great idea for parents to contact each other over the summer to arrange sleepovers, lunches or tea parties as this can really help strengthen bonds outside the school environment and boost your child's confidence prior to the start of term.

### Manage emotional expectations

Pupils starting boarding school are young, and it can be sometimes the first prolonged time away from their families. Homesickness is natural and it can be reassuring for your child to know this. Sometimes your child may need to wallow in their feelings – I call this 'hippo time' – but it is crucial to help them to develop strategies to manage these emotions independently. It can be useful to introduce mindfulness activities at home in the months leading up to the start of term – where they learn to take time for themselves – such as reading, listening to music, or simply being at peace in their own space.

At Heathfield, we appoint 'big sisters' – pupils who organise activities with new boarders to encourage friendships, such as creating dances, posters, or writing letters home. We even have some cuddly dogs to stroke or walk, which contributes greatly towards positive emotional wellbeing.

**Rachel Whitton, Director of Pastoral and Boarding, Heathfield School**

### Encourage a 'can do' mindset

Being able to self-regulate including at bedtime and manage their own time and belongings are skills that pupils will need in a boarding environment. You can help your child to prepare at home by gradually putting the onus on them to take on greater responsibilities, for example:

- Establish clear bedtime routines and encourage your child to recognise when it is time to get ready e.g. 8-8.30pm
- Encourage your child to create their own checklists
- Let them pack bags by themselves for school or days out
- Introduce sensible time limits for using electronics and ask them to 'hand in' their phone at night, explaining the importance of sleep and engaging with people around them
- Promote resilience by resisting the temptation to 'fix' every problem for them

# KINGSWOOD SCHOOL

## Saho's speech contest

Saho came to Kingswood on a scholarship scheme from Japan. Here is her insightful entry into the school's speech contest' with...

*"We come from different backgrounds, different races, and we came together with one goal... We can achieve anything if we pull together as one".*

*This is a quote from the captain of the Springboks, the South African rugby team after its memorable victory at the last World Cup, in my native country Japan.*

*What can we learn from his words?*

*It is said that due to the development of technology, connections between people from all over the world have become closer than ever before. More people are now working together with people from other countries. That's why I'm here in the UK, to prepare for my future, to be a global person. Personally, I was taken aback by the difference between British and Japanese culture when I came to England this summer. British people's love for having tea is infamous, so I wasn't surprised when I saw my host family drinking tea literally all the time.*

*However I began to realize this behavior originates from their deep-rooted and deep-seated traditions. The people in the UK value their leisure time, above anything else, and they have lots of outstanding ways in which to enjoy their lifestyle. Having a cup of tea is just one of them. It is fun to discover such differences, but as a boarding school student, I have also found it really difficult to spend time with people from different backgrounds. In Japan, we tend not to express our opinion, as we are too guarded about what we say. In contrast, in the UK, we are expected to share our point of view all the time, and it was really hard for me to get used to that. In reality, understanding others is not as easy as it sounds. Not only for us in today's society, but also for South African people in 1995. At that time, the majority of black people couldn't abide rugby as it was considered as a sport for privileged white people. The antagonism which black and white people felt for one another was strong. But, now they have changed their history. It is hard to believe from looking at the diversity of the South African rugby team today, that such a conflict ever existed. As we can see in this example, what we need is to make an effort to understand each other. It's difficult, but it's possible to change our view and accept other perspectives to work together."*



Saho Kumagai, (pictured above centre) from Japan, joined Kingswood Sixth Form, sponsored through the Tazaki Foundation Scholarship Programme, in September 2019 to study Mathematics, Biology and Chemistry.

Saho's speech was made at the International Student Voice event held in November 2019, she spoke for 3 minutes and won the competition.





## LEIGHTON PARK SCHOOL

### All That Jazz

Trial and tribulation augmented by a phenomenal soundtrack, thrilled audiences in February at Leighton Park School's Senior School production of Chicago.

Broadway's longest running musical by Fred Ebb, gave students in Year 10 and above a chance to explore music, murder and media hype, following the lives of night club vixen Velma Kelly aspiring starlet Roxie Hart and their self-serving but successful lawyer, Billy Flynn. The School's Main Hall was transformed into an Art Deco 1920's night club full of sequins and glitz as the audience followed Roxie's quest for fame.

Peter Scoggins, Head of Drama and Director of the production remarked, "This was an ambitious choice of show for any school to put on and fortunately we knew we had the talent and the commitment in our students to make memorable performances."

The team behind the visual transformation of the star-studded cast included Year 11 Full Boarders Alilya Narikbayeva and Karolina Mukhametkaliyeva both from Kazakhstan.

Violin player, Antonia Billig, who joined the Lower Sixth last year from Germany, was thrilled to have the opportunity to play in the pit orchestra. Similarly, Liz Bigalke, also a Full Boarder from Germany in the Lower Sixth was elated to be playing in the Ensemble.

**Taylor Johnson, Marketing Assistant, Leighton Park School**



## ROYAL HOSPITAL SCHOOL

### An International Community

Dimas, now Head Boy at the Royal Hospital School (RHS) in Suffolk, explains how a very British boarding school won over his heart.

"I arrived at the RHS in September 2016 filled with excitement about embarking on what I thought would be a hugely enriching year of language immersion in the UK. That nervous 14-year-old boy from Minorca whose English was 'rather rudimentary', as my tutor recently wrote on my UCAS reference, could hardly have imagined all the opportunities that awaited him, or that the one-year stay would extend to four years thus far.

The RHS has given me countless experiences ranging from DofE expeditions in the Highlands of Scotland, sailing and debating to completing the Devizes to Westminster Canoe Marathon, to name but a few. On the academic side, I particularly value the amount of support I had from the English as an Additional Language department as well as the truly engaging and thought-provoking teaching my peers and I are fortunate to receive.

The pinnacle of my time at RHS came with my appointment as Head Boy, which has given me a precious chance to take up more responsibility and develop my leadership skills. I am planning to go to university in the UK to study a still undecided mathematics-based subject and I will, without a doubt, occasionally return to RHS which has given me so much. RHS Headmaster, Simon Lockyer believes the diversity of the school's pupil intake is part of the reason it offers such a unique education."

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"We have children from 33 countries the world over and Dimas' success reflects the investment we make in each of our international pupils to ensure they can access the best possible education within a welcoming environment. This approach, combined with our unique Naval heritage, has created a place where children remain grounded and confident with a curiosity and passion for life that's rare to find."

**Sara Stewart, Director of Communications, Royal Hospital School**

# TAUNTON SCHOOL

## Louise

Before joining Taunton School Sixth Form Louise, from Austria, spent two years at Taunton School International where she took a range of GCSEs. Since starting at the school in September 2017, Louise has made outstanding progress and has totally embraced the British Education system, taking every opportunity she can to better herself. "I hated studying before I came to Taunton School but the teachers made learning fun and were always available to help. Taunton School changed my view about school and studying and I am really thankful for that."

Alongside achieving good grades during her GCSEs, Louise was hugely popular with her peers as she was such an active member of the boarding house and embraced a wide variety of extra-curricular activities. She was the two time winner of 'Sports Woman of the Year' and won 'Student of the Year' in her second year at the International school. She then went on to achieve a place to study the International Bachelorette at Taunton School Sixth Form where she is currently studying German, English and Economics at higher level and Spanish, Biology and Mathematics at standard level.

Through the Sixth Form, Louise has continued to thrive at school and her drive to succeed, particularly in sport, is hugely admirable. She has continued to play for the boy's football team and also has been a regular player for the Independent School National Team (ISFA).

With the ISFA, Louise has attended training camps and played against a variety of American schools, even scoring the winning goal against the Scottish National Team earlier this year. After her exams Louise is planning to continue her football career in America.

**Katie Fisher, International Marketing & Communications Co-ordinator, Taunton School**

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"I would not be where I am with my football or my education right now if it was not for Taunton School doing a great job supporting me!"



# WELLS CATHEDRAL SCHOOL

## Sporting and Musical successes

### Kevin Hits Top 35 Badminton England Ranking

Congratulations to Year 11 pupil Kevin Luk, who has achieved considerable success in a series of major badminton tournaments since the start of the new academic year, winning his first senior tournament in January, which resulted in a top 35 badminton England ranking. Kevin, who represented Hong Kong at badminton before joining Wells Cathedral School, is a full-time boarder at the School and is currently studying for GCSEs.

Kevin won the Oxfordshire Senior Bronze Badminton Tournament in Abingdon in mid-January, beating both the captain of the University of Warwick's Badminton Team, and also a member of the Wales National Team to be crowned tournament champion. Earlier in the year he reached the semi-final of the Badminton England Gloucester Senior Bronze tournament at Cheltenham, narrowly losing to a member of the Jamaican National Badminton Team; and reached the final of the Badminton England Milton Keynes Senior Bronze Tournament at Milton Keynes. He has also won the Yeovil Badminton Club Under 19 Junior Tournament at Westlands Sports & Fitness Club in Yeovil; and the Sherborne Doubles tournament.



### Menuhin International Violin Competition

Huge congratulations to Year 9 violinist, Dawid Kasprzak, who hails from Poland. Dawid is a full time boarder, and has been accepted into the Menuhin International Violin Competition Junior Section which will take place in Richmond, Virginia, in mid-May 2020. Dawid was selected, one of just 22 participants from a list of 152 applicants, to take part in the competition following submission of a recording and a rigorous audio screening process.

The Menuhin Competition is the world's leading competition for young violinists, receiving entries from the top conservatoires and music schools around the world. The competitors are a truly international group, representing over 18 different nationalities. Dawid is one of the School's many specialist musicians, following a timetable that allows him to juggle academic commitments with a rigorous musical schedule of lessons, practice, masterclasses, ensembles and performance.

**Katy Chantrey, PR Manager, Wells Cathedral School**





## A new colleague



We are delighted to welcome Sheena Trist to the AEGIS team as the new School, College and University Membership Manager.

Sheena will be encouraging schools to support us in becoming members and looking after those schools who have already joined us.

Sheena has a wealth of school and guardianship experience and is looking forward to putting her fantastic skills to good use.

## AEGIS are finalists!



The **ST Secondary School Awards** are aimed at giving extra recognition to outstanding work in our industry.

AEGIS is so proud to have been nominated for the association category. Winners will be announced at the awards at ST Secondary Focus Frankfurt in October. A big THANK YOU to everyone who voted for us.

## NEW AEGIS MEMBERS

- Three new guardianship organisations have successfully gained full AEGIS accreditation - many congratulations to:

### **Ying Lang Guardian Glamour Edu, Crest Education Limited and Regent Guardians**

Congratulations to all of you. Regent Guardians' accreditation marks our 50th member guardianship organisation which really is something to celebrate. We look forward to working with you all in the future.

- Two of our member guardianship organisations have gained AEGIS re-accreditation.

### **Cambridge Guardians and Guardians etc.**

- We are delighted to see that several new schools have joined AEGIS:

### **Burgess Hill Girls School, Wells Cathedral School, Ackworth School Twyford School and Woodbridge School**

We thank you for your support. Becoming a member school holds many benefits. Schools, universities and colleges can display our school member logo on their website which shows commitment to ensuring good guardianship for their students. They will then receive a profile on the AEGIS website with links back to their site. Member schools also have access to valuable legal advice and can consult our office for help and assistance at any time.

- **Dr Helen Wright** After two years in post, Helen decided to step down as our Chair of Trustees in March. During her time in post, Helen brought her valuable insight into governance and management to the AEGIS Board, overseeing a governance review, helping the Trustees form working sub committees to support the office, and recruiting new Trustees to the Board. Helen championed the cause of guardianship, and passionately supported the care of international students in the UK.

AEGIS is in a position to continue upwards now towards a bright future. We would like to thank Helen, on behalf of us all in the sector, for her invaluable work and leadership over the past two years.

If your school is not yet a member of AEGIS and you are interested in finding out more about showing your commitment to accredited guardianship, please do get in touch by contacting [sheena@aegisuk.net](mailto:sheena@aegisuk.net)

**See our membership page and enrol today**



# WEBINARS, TRAINING AND CONFERENCE

## Mental Health Training



YoungMinds is a leading organisation supporting the mental health of children and young people. The course, which takes place in London, involves evidence-based training and will focus on the unique challenges faced on a daily basis by international students.

Our April event has been postponed but those booked on will be coming later in the year. More dates are planned in the future so watch this space...

## \*NEW\* AEGIS UNITE CONFERENCE

SAVE THE DATE - 9th November 2020



Save the date for the AEGIS Unite Conference, London on Monday 9th November 2020! Your chance to find out about all things guardianship. Face-to-face meetings plus much more! We thank you for your support.

## AEGIS WEBINAR

Wednesday 6th May 10am  
Wednesday 3rd June 10am  
Wednesday 1st July 10am

## AEGIS WEBINAR

Thursday 7th May 10am

### FREE Webinars - Preparing for Inspections

An opportunity to meet our friendly and approachable team with a question and answer session. Hosted by Jackie Scotney, Head of AEGIS Inspections, Sharon Sverdloff, AEGIS Inspections Administrator and Yasemin Wigglesworth, AEGIS Executive Officer.

[Click here to read more and to register for your free place](#)

### FREE Webinar - Schools and Guardians Working Together

A webinar for school staff and guardians which will look at the way schools and guardians work together to safeguard international students. As the leading experts in the guardianship sector, AEGIS has a wealth of experience to share with you, supporting both schools and guardians.

[Click here to read more and to register for your free place](#)



## A Thank You

I want to thank all our member schools, colleges and universities for your ongoing support. As a registered charity, we rely on our subscriptions and we could not continue to offer our valuable accreditation and guardianship framework to our guardianship organisations without your support.

Similarly, we rely on our existing and new guardianship organisations to maintain our services and to keep international students safe in the UK. We thank you all for your cooperation and support.

We have been particularly impressed with the way that our guardianship organisations have responded to the Coronavirus crisis and the way they and we have been able to work alongside our partner schools who have been experiencing unprecedented challenges.

We hope that we will all learn from this situation and that our relationships will become even stronger as a result.

**Yasemin Wigglesworth, AEGIS Executive Officer**

## FOLLOW US

Keep up with all our news on our social channels and **read our blog**



### Opinion Disclaimer

*The views, thoughts and opinions expressed by our contributors and authors to this AEGIS newsletter solely belong to the contributors and authors, and do not necessarily reflect the views of AEGIS.*

*Photo above thanks to Heathfield School*



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