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SCHOOLS'
ASSOCIATION
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Annual Boarding Conference

28-29
JANUARY
2025

*Boarding perspectives:
Learning within, leading beyond*

CONFERENCE CHAIR: WILL GOLDSMITH, HEAD, PACKWOOD SCHOOL

VENUE: CROWNE PLAZA, NOTTINGHAM

Day 1

Tuesday 28 January: *Learning within, leading beyond*

- 10:30 Registration and refreshments**
- 11:00 Welcome**
- David Walker, Executive Director, Boarding and Director BSA/TIOB
- 11:05 Chair's address**
- Will Goldsmith, Conference Chair 2025 and Head, Packwood School
BSA Chair 2025 will look at how the boarding sector can learn within and lead beyond in today's changeable world.
- 11:25 Online safety: Recognising and responding to online risks**
- David Wright, CBE, CEO, SWGfL & Director, UK Safer Internet Centre
Global digital safety expert, David Wright, will discuss strategies to manage boarders' wellbeing in shared digital spaces. He will provide tips on developing digital resilience including setting effective filters, monitoring, and statutory safeguarding expectations.
- 12:15 Global village round table**
Bring your top three head-scratchers for each topic
- 1 CREATING A HOME FROM HOME**
- David Walker, Executive Director, Boarding and Director BSA/TIOB
Discuss the practicalities of creating the ideal boarding environment on a budget.
- 2 SAFEGUARDING AND COMPLIANCE**
- Dale Wilkins, Executive Director, Scotland/Wales and Accredited/Compliance, BSA Group
Understand the latest safeguarding requirements and share best practice.
- 3 INTEGRATING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**
- Beth Hudson, Executive Director, Specialist Services, BSA Group and Director, BAISIS
Share tips on successful recruitment and integration of international students.
- 4 IMMIGRATION 101**
- Kate Hollyer, Executive Director, Legal & Public Affairs & Partner, BSA Legal Services
Raise your UKVI concerns and experiences with an immigration expert.
- 5 MARKETING BOARDING**
- Aileen Kane, Chief Operating Officer and Deputy CEO, BSA Group
Discuss positioning and promoting boarding in a competitive global market.
- 13:15 Networking lunch**
- 14:15 Breakout discussions**
- 1 UK COMPLIANCE**
- Kate Hollyer, Legal & Public Affairs & Partner, BSA Legal Services
 - Dale Wilkins, Executive Director, Scotland/Wales and Accredited/Compliance, BSA Group
Discuss the latest updates and implications for boarding with compliance specialists.
- 2 RUNNING INTERNATIONAL (OUTSIDE UK) BOARDING HOUSES**
- Beth Hudson, Executive Director, Specialist Services, BSA Group and Director, BAISIS
 - David Walker, Executive Director, Boarding and Director BSA/TIOB
Bounce ideas off one another and our facilitators, who have worked in Africa and Switzerland.
- 15:15 Refreshments and networking**
- 15:45 Fireside chat: The importance of proactive inclusion**
- Candice Brathwaite, Writer and TV Personality
Bestselling author, Candice Brathwaite, will share her thoughts on how schools can ensure proactive inclusion and representation, drawing on her acclaimed life lessons for black teenagers and her experience of independent education as a parent.
- 17:00 Close of day one**
- 19:00 Drinks reception - Sponsored by IGTM**
Music by Trent College students
- 19:30 Annual conference dinner**
After dinner speaker: Wendy Griffiths, Chair, Independent Schools Examinations Board



Day 2

Wednesday 29 January: *Learning within, leading beyond*

- 09:30 Global boarding trends**
- David Walker, Executive Director, Boarding and Director BSA/TIOB
The latest trends, concerns and opportunities as reported by BSA member schools around the world.
- 10:00 All roads lead to boarding**
- Ashley Smith, Deputy Head of Boarding, Worthgate School
Senior boarding professionals with non-conventional career paths will discuss why they moved to boarding, culture shock and lessons learned, transferrable skills, the importance of diverse teams, and how to successfully recruit outside the sector.
- 10:45 Refreshments and networking**
- 11:15 Breakout discussions**
- 1 LEGAL UPDATE FOR BOARDING STAFF**
- Ben Collingwood, Partner, Moore Barlow
Lawyer Ben Collingwood specialises in independent education. He'll summarise the latest in boarding and horizon-scan, as well as answer your questions.
- 2 PROFILE ANALYSIS: THE BOARDING PARENT**
- Guy Schady-Beckett, Director and Head of Research, Next Step Education
Guy Shady-Beckett will draw on his global experience dealing with boarding families to lead this breakout session on what parents look for and common concerns.
- 3 STATE BOARDING**
- Dale Wilkins, Executive Director, Scotland/Wales and Accredited/Compliance, BSA Group
With lived experience working in state boarding, Dale Wilkins will consider the latest developments in the sector and what this means for your school.
- 12:00 Self-disclosure and bullying in an East African context**
- Mark Buckler, Deputy Head (Pastoral), St Andrew's Senior School, Turi
Mark Buckler will share insights from his research on bullying in an East African school, with globally relevant takeaways.
- 12:15 Educational migration of Chinese families to the UK**
- Andrea Kis, Doctoral Researcher, University of Sussex
Andrea Kis will share her longitudinal, multi-sited ethnographic research on educational migration strategies of Chinese families.
- 12:30 Networking lunch**
- 13:15 The boarding o-zone: Preparing students for life after school**
- Paddy Rockett, Head of Middle School Boarding, Reed's School
You've devoted your career to creating the optimal boarding experience but what happens after school? This session will outline a proposed national framework and tips to equip your students with the skills to succeed in the real world.
- 14:15 How to tackle vaping in your school**
- Dr Jasmine Khouja, Senior Research Associate, The Tobacco and Alcohol Research Group, University of Bristol
 - Ed Gyde, CEO, Audience Social Marketing, whose campaign experience includes delivering the 'Talk to FRANK' and '5 a day' initiatives
Our expert speakers will cover the dangers of vaping and the science behind why young people vape, as well as effective messaging to use in your school based on years of designing and delivering youth campaigns against addictive substances.
- 15:15 Refreshments and networking**
- 15:30 Social media and tech-facilitated abuse: Digital literacy for empowered futures**
- Professor Jessica Ringrose, Co-director, UCL Centre for Sociology of Education and Equity
Professor Jessica Ringrose will share findings from her latest research into youth digital cultures and online safety, with a focus on the importance and role of education in preventing online misogyny and tech-facilitated sexual violence.
- 16:30 Close of conference**



David Walker
Executive Director
Boarding and
Director BSA/TIOB

David joined the BSA group in August 2023. He has over 20 years' experience in boarding schools and has worked in a range of schools in the UK and Africa, alongside being a prep school governor and a trustee of a MAT. Before taking up his post at the BSA, David was Deputy Head Pastoral at a large co-ed independent school in the South-East.



Will Goldsmith
Conference Chair 2025
and Head
Packwood School

Will has a career spanning almost twenty years in boarding education and leadership. He is currently Head of Packwood School. Will is passionate about a skills and mindset-based learning philosophy and has a background in emotional wellbeing and mental health. He is a founding fellow of the Chartered College of Teaching and Royal Society of the Arts.



David Wright CBE
CEO, SWGfL
and Director
UK Safer Internet Centre

David has worked extensively in online safety for 20 years with children, schools and wider agencies. He advises a number of governments, organisations and industry partners on online safety strategy and policy and has been appointed an expert child online protection adviser to the UN ITU and nominated by UK Government as an expert to the Council of Europe Tech Facilitated Gender Based Violence committee. David is a member of the UK Council for Internet Safety and has recently been invited to be a member of the World Economic Forum's Global Coalition for Digital Safety. David has led pioneering work, such as the development of multi award winning resources and helplines for victims of online harm and, with Plymouth University, published a number of ground-breaking research reports.



Dale Wilkins
Executive Director, Scotland/Wales
and Accredited/Compliance
BSA Group

Dale joined the BSA in 2017. Dale leads on all safeguarding and inspection matters for the BSA, including managing the Commitment to Care Charter, and has developed a process of BSA Accreditation for international members. He also liaises with ISI, Ofsted and DfE on matters relating to compliance and inspection standards, and compiles the BSA Self-Assessment toolkit. For 31 years Dale was a boarding practitioner. After boarding positions at Norwich School and Tettenhall College, Dale became a Housemaster at Old Swinford Hospital in 1992, and was promoted to Deputy Head in 2007, and subsequently also DSL. He has also been a multi-agency trainer for the Dudley Safeguarding Children's Board.



Wendy Griffiths
Chair, Independent Schools
Examinations Board

Wendy Griffiths was Headmistress at Tudor Hall from 2004 to 2021, where she made the school motto Habeo ut dem, "I have that I may give", part of every day life with a huge focus on giving back to the community both locally and across the world. She has also served as a Governor of five prep schools. She was chairman of the Boarding Schools' Association in 2014/2015 and a member of the executive for six years. She also chaired the GSA Boarding Committee and served on the GSA executive. Wendy is currently Chair of ISEB joining at a time of significant change and innovation within the organisation. Wendy's drive is challenging girls to allow them to gain the confidence needed to fulfil their potential.



Ashley Smith
Deputy Head of Boarding
Worthgate School

Ashley has quickly risen through the ranks at Worthgate in just under three years. Beginning at Worthgate on a zero-hour contract without experience in education or boarding, and originally from a background in printing, the transition into boarding has revealed a deep-seated purpose and passion for working with young people. Promoted to Deputy Head of Boarding in August 2024, Ashley has a desire to guide students through their unique journeys, striving to foster a nurturing environment and shape positive, supportive, and impactful experiences for students and staff alike.



Ben Collingwood
Partner
Moore Barlow

Ben specialises in advising independent schools and other charities on wide ranging areas of education law, with particular focus on reputation issues, pastoral, safeguarding, historic abuse allegations, SEN, exclusions, parent/pupil complaints, data protection, parent contracts, admissions and staff matters of all types. He has written and spoken widely on issues facing the independent schools sector, providing comment in The Times, The Guardian, The Lawyer and Law Society's Gazette and at the national conferences and training programmes for the various associations that support independent schools including BSA, ISBA, HMC, IAPS and AGBIS.



Guy Schady-Beckett
Director and Head of Research
Next Step Education



Beth Hudson
Executive Director
Specialist Services and Director
BAISIS, BAISIS

Bethan joined the BSA team as Training Manager in 2017. Bethan has worked in two independent boarding schools in the UK and Switzerland, the latter as Housemistress to 36 pupils. Following her time in Switzerland, she was a Pastoral Manager for an inner-city state academy before working in the charity sector for Debrett's running the 'Debrett's Foundation' training programme. In her role, Bethan plans and manages all day seminars, conferences, INSET and consultancy, as well as being Director of BAISIS. She believes boarding can be a positive force for young people and in order to fully support their needs staff can never learn too much. As such she is passionate about the CPD BSA delivers to our pastoral communities in the UK and worldwide.



Kate Hollyer
Executive Director
Legal & Public Affairs & Partner
BSA Group

As a qualified solicitor with more than 10 years' experience advising clients on UK immigration law, Kate assists members with all immigration and safeguarding legal matters. Prior to joining BSA in 2022 Kate was Partner and Head of Department at a leading full-service UK law firm. Having resided in state, preparatory and senior school boarding houses since 2014 with her Housemaster husband, Kate has a unique perspective of boarding life.



Aileen Kane
Deputy CEO and
Chief Operating Officer
BSA Group

Aileen leads operations at BSA providing guidance and training and works closely with government departments, local authorities and other agencies to support members. She heads up the group's work to find places for refugee children escaping from conflict countries and is also a trustee for a children's charity.



Candice Brathwaite
Writer
and TV Personality

Candice is a critically acclaimed writer and TV personality with over half a million devotees on social media. Successful in non-fiction and fiction spaces, her first book I am not your Baby Mother, examining the inequalities of Black motherhood, was a Sunday Times Bestseller. Her hit podcast Closet Confessions has amassed millions of downloads and tours nationally. Candice is Contributing Editor to Grazia and regularly appears on national radio and television news channels where she is a straight-talking and courageous voice on achieving your goals, fashion, family and the Black British experience.



Andrea Kis
Doctoral Researcher
University of Sussex

Andrea lived in China from 2010 to 2019, where she tutored and mentored middle school students, taught at the Sir Horace Kadoorie Youth Development Center, Sino-British College, and at both JiaoTong and FuDan Universities in Shanghai. She is currently a departmental tutor in the Social Anthropology Department at the University of Sussex, leading a seminar on Ethnography through Film while completing the final draft of her doctoral thesis on Chinese families' elite education-migration to the UK. She is particularly interested in how current social transformations in China intersect with evolving parenting styles, family structures, and migration practices.



Mark Buckler
Deputy Head (Pastoral)
St Andrew's Senior School, Turi

Mark has served at St Andrew's School, Turi in Kenya for the past seven years alongside his family. Previously, he held leadership roles at Kingham Hill School in Oxfordshire, including Head of Conduct and Head of Art. Mark recently earned distinction for his master's dissertation, which focused on the pressing issue of bullying perpetration in an East African school context. His research continues to inform his work, equipping both the school and the wider community with strategies to foster a positive, proactive approach to addressing bullying and promoting healthy relationships among young people and adults.



Paddy Rockett
Head of Middle School Boarding
Reed's School

Paddy is the Head of Middle School Boarding/Housemaster at Reed's School in Surrey. Paddy has been through the Pastoral Care module and Boarding Management module run by the BSA and is currently completing his Masters in Residential Education with the University of Buckingham. His current area of research is focussed on the development of life skills in boarding houses and the development of a national programme for life skills development. Previously, Paddy was a lead in the "Broadening the Curriculum" strategy of the University of Limerick designing a social responsibility module undertaken by first year students. As a Biology teacher he is interested in the use of VR and AR in the teaching of Science. He is also interested in Pastoral care, the development of Boarding nationally and internationally and social mobility.



Dr Jasmine Khouja
Senior Research Associate
The Tobacco and Alcohol Research
Group, University of Bristol



Ed Gyde

CEO, Audience Social Marketing, whose campaign experience includes delivering the 'Talk to FRANK' and '5 a day' initiatives

Ed has lived and breathed health campaigns for two decades. Coming from a medical family he is Audience Social Marketing's public health lead and has shaped many of the biggest national public health campaigns: '5 a day', Talk to FRANK (drugs education) and Know Your Limits (alcohol education).



Professor Jessica Ringrose

Co-director, UCL Centre for Sociology of Education and Equity

Jessica has lived and conducted research in England for 21 years, developing an extensive public engagement profile and informing policy and practice across education, communications, health and justice. Her research specialisms are youth digital cultures and online safety. Recent projects focus on developing education to prevent tech-facilitated gender-based and sexual violence and online misogyny. She is a widely cited and internationally recognized expert in these fields and in 2020 was the recipient of The American Educational Research Association (AERA) Distinguished Contributions to Gender Equity in Education Award. Her latest book, Teens, Social Media and Image Based Abuse, is out in early 2025.



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