

Newsletter January 2014

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Alton Convent School, Hampshire

Dear Angie

It was great to see 39 new ISA Heads at the Association's Induction course recently. It's always a great opportunity to share and explore leadership experiences, as well as encouraging the development of networks that sustain headship. Running a school can be a lonely business and we encourage all Members to attend events such as Area Meetings, particularly when times remain challenging and support is needed more than ever.

As usual, this Newsletter is a mix of warning and opportunity. You'll see news of our Annual Conference in May, details of the latest training courses and inspections reminders. We are very pleased to welcome Lloyds Bank to the ISA fold and we are preparing training for their regional officers so they may better serve our Members. There are details of the Essay and Drama Competitions, plus a reminder of our first National Awards Event - please do consider an entry as the publicity will be hugely beneficial for any winning school.

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[Quick link to ISA Legal Services.](#)

Or call 0845 567 6006

[Quick link to ISA email adviceline.](#)

Or call 01799 523619



ISA Gold Preferred

As always, please don't hesitate to contact ISA HQ if we can help in any way.

Kind regards,

Neil Roskilly

CEO [email](#). Direct line: 01799 581692, Mobile 07508 609590

1. Richard Walden - ISA Chair 2014



ISA is delighted to welcome Richard Walden as our new Chair for 2014. Head of Castle House School in Newport, Richard was Chair of ISA's Finance Committee and has been an active member of the Association for many years. In his New Year's message to ISA members, Richard said that it was a great honour and privilege to lead the Association at such a vibrant time in its history. I'm sure colleagues will want to join us in wishing Richard the very best for the year ahead. Members who missed his New Year's message can read it by [clicking here](#).

2. ISA Annual Conference 2014

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Booking is now open for ISA's 2014 Annual Conference: 15-17 May at Coombe Abbey, a luxury country house hotel in Warwickshire. We are delighted to have secured this wonderful venue - a Grade 1 listed converted abbey - which boasts a range of unusual features and will provide the perfect venue for our event.

The theme for this year's conference is Values for Life, and the programme boasts a range of impressive speakers including the Bishop of Leicester, The Right Reverend Tim Stevens, and author and broadcaster Mark Stevenson. The event will also include the inaugural ISA Awards: details of categories and how to apply will be sent to schools next month.

Last year's ISA Annual Conference was our biggest to date, and we expect Coombe Abbey to sell out quickly. [Click here](#) to book online and reserve your space.

3. MBE for Gwilym Price ISA Sport Ambassador



ISA's National Ambassador for Sport, Gwilym Price, has been awarded an MBE in the 2014 New Years' Honours. The award has been given in recognition of Gwilym's work in leading ISA's national sports programme, which has benefited thousands of ISA pupils across the UK. A teacher since 1969, Gwilym held the post of Director of Sport at Princethorpe College (ISA) in Rugby for over 30 years.

He has been involved with the ISA Sports Programme since 1988, during which time he has organised hundreds of sporting events for schools – both in the UK and abroad. As ISA's Sporting Ambassador Gwil now leads the ISA National Sports Programme – the UK's largest programme of sporting events for independent schools.

Speaking earlier this month Gwilym said that he was "thrilled and honoured" to receive the award, and expressed his thanks to ISA colleagues and pupils who had made it possible. Gwilym will be presented with his MBE at a ceremony in Buckingham Palace later this year.

4. ISA Welcomes New Member Schools

ISA is delighted to welcome the following new Members and Membership Transfers into the Association:

Abingdon House School: *Julie Fardell*
Bath Academy: *Tim Naylor*
Brigidine School: *Devon Walker*
Broomfield House School: *Norton York*
Chelsea Independent College: *Paul Fear*
Cherry Trees Prep and Nursery: *Carole Beedham*
Collingham College: *Sally Powell*
Cransley School: *Simon Leyshon*
Dagfa School: *Peter Woodroffe*
Davies, Laing and Dick College: *Rachel Borland*
Egerton Rothesay: *Colin Parker*
Eridge House School: *Pippa Hogg Andrews*
Hemdean House: *Deborah Lee*
Lammas School: *Pamela Sessions*
Merton Court Prep: *Dominic Price*
Newlands School: *Tula Dyer*
Pattison College: *Elizabeth McConnell*
Phoenix Cambridge: *Gill Cooke*
The Pointer School: *Robert Higgins*
Radnor House School: *David Paton*
Rivington Park School: *Michael Ruaux*
St Edward's School: *Pat Clayfield*
St Faith's at Ash: *Lawrence Groves*
St Martha's School: *Matthew Burke*
Snaresbrook School: *Christopher Curl*
Swaminarayan School: *Nilesh Manani*
Towers Convent: *Clare Trelfa*
Whitehall School: *Jon Willcocks*
Wickham Court School: *Lisa Harries*

5. ISA Professional Development.

Many of ISA's training courses now sell out quickly so do look ahead at our events [online](#) if you haven't already done so. Here are some of the courses for the Spring term:

- 29 January: Design and Implementation of your Junior Curriculum, Bromley
- 5 February: Developing Inspector Skills to Raise Standards, Milton Keynes
- 6 February: The ISI Regulatory Requirements, Milton Keynes
- 25 February: Inspection of Governance for Proprietors, Trustees and Governors

Full details and booking are available on our website [here](#).

School leaders keen to improve their financial understanding (a crucial and often overlooked aspect of leadership), should check out the two-day course in March 2014 run by our partner, Angus Cater. See item 14 below for more details.

6. ISA Inspections - Information and Reminders



In a new addition to the ISA newsletter we are bringing together the latest information on all inspection related issues in one single useful guide. The [ISA Inspections Update](#) contains useful information on a range of issues, from the

latest ISI updates to ISA courses which can help to prepare your school. Please [click here](#) to read the full ISA Inspections Update for January.

7. KS4 English and Maths Consultation

The DFE has published its new programmes of study for English and Maths at Key Stage 4 - and is seeking views in a consultation which will run until 3 February 2014. The new programmes will be introduced from September 2015 alongside the first teaching of the new qualifications. The Maths programme is closely aligned to GCSE content - with a focus on preparing

for post 16 maths by providing foundations for advanced topics such as calculus. In English the programme of study has been strengthened to ensure all pupils read a wide range of challenging and classic English literature - with a renewed focus on the reading of whole texts including at least one play by Shakespeare and classic works from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries. The consultation and draft programmes of study can be found on the [DFE website here](#).

8. Vocational Qualifications - New TechBac

New L3 (A-level equivalence) vocational qualifications are being developed that may be of interest to our schools. For example, City & Guilds are developing a range of courses available in pilot form from September 2014 that incorporate extended project work and work experience, as well as academic elements. Given the high profile sponsorship of new L3 vocational courses (and university approval), schools looking to widen their post-16 appeal may do well to explore these options. For your information, attached is [a leaflet from C&G](#) and [a copy of a powerpoint](#) from a consultation event. If you require any further explanation, please contact rachel.kellett@cityandguilds.com.

You may also [download](#) a letter from the Deputy Director of Vocational Education with links to lists of vocational qualifications approved for inclusion in the 2016 performance tables for 16-19 year olds: Tech Levels and Applied General qualifications and also for Key Stage 4 non-GCSE/iGCSEs; plus the updated policy statement on the TechBacc Performance Measure and the qualifications that will count towards this.

9. School Direct QTS Update

Schools wishing to appoint trainee or unqualified teachers next year may wish to consider using School Direct. Independent Schools can now access School Direct training without needing to be either a teaching or training school or part of a consortium. Schools can do this through a self-funded/salaried route (a very similar process to the previous GTP) by applying directly to the ITT provider. The three year

rule, regarding prior experience, does not apply to the self-funded/salaried route.

10. ISA Whitbread Prize Winners - 2013

We are delighted to announce the results of the ISA Whitbread Prize for 2013. The award is given for GCSE performance and this year the standard was extremely high.

JOINT WINNERS:

Emily Allen, Bowbrook House School

Gabriella Lindley, Claires Court Schools

RUNNERS UP:

Molly Corrigan, Beech House School

Louis Helsby, Ballard School

Anouk van Beurden, Cambridge International School

Our Academic Policy Committee met in November to adjudicate this year's entries - a difficult task given the very high achievements of the candidates from across ISA schools. In addition to the joint winners, three students were identified for runner-up status, due to the quality of their applications that combined raw academic performance with extra-curricular activities and service to their schools.

The standard of applications this year was extremely high and is testament to the quality of education being provided by ISA schools across the country.

11. ISA Drama Competition 2014



ISA's Annual Drama Competition has an ever-increasing profile, and colleagues are reminded that the closing date for this year's entries is Saturday 1 February 2014.

The North Festival will be held on Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 March 2014 at The Hammond School in Chester.

The South Festival will be held on Friday 28 March

and Saturday 29 March at Hurst Lodge School in Ascot.

Vicky Smit, our ISA Chair of Arts, has provided very detailed guidance in the documents you can download below:

- [ISA Drama Festival 2014 details](#)
- [ISA Drama Festival 2014 FAQ](#)
- [ISA Drama Festival Entry Form](#)

Do pass on details to your Head of Drama or English if you haven't already done so.

12. ISA 2014 Essay Competitions



The 2014 ISA Essay Competition is now open and the titles have been published [on our website](#). There are six essay titles for each age group, offering a variety of genres to suit different children. We had a large number of entries last year and hope that 2014 will be our biggest competition yet.

Please read the guidelines on the entry forms carefully. Unfortunately essays that are not presented in accordance with the rules cannot be accepted.

The closing date for this year's competition is **Monday 10 March 2014.**

[Please click here to download the competition details and entry forms.](#)

13. ISA Art Competition - New Flickr Site

ISA's 2013 Art Competition attracted some of our

best work yet, and if you missed November's Autumn Study Conference you won't have seen the wonderful artwork produced by pupils. We've created a new [ISA Flickr site](#) - [click here](#) - which includes a full gallery of the entries and think that you'll agree that our pupils have much to be proud of. Do share the link with your colleagues in the art department, and perhaps add it to your website. We are using the Flickr site as something of an experiment, and would appreciate your feedback - please email Karen Goddard at ISA HQ by [clicking here](#).



14. Financial Training for Heads

Heads keen to develop a better understanding of strategic financial management should consider attending the successful two day course: **Financial Training for Heads and Deputies**. Run by ISA partner Angus Cater, this popular course aims to give

delegates a deeper understanding of all matters financial - with a view to improving dialogue with your bursar, governors or proprietor. The course takes place on 13th and 14th March at The Oxford Thames Four Pillars Hotel, and costs £225 per person plus accommodation. For full details [click here](#).

15. ISA Pupil wins BBC Sports Award



A recent pupil at ISA School Claires Court in Maidenhead was the winner of this year's BBC Young Sports Person of the Year Award.

Amber Hill, a world champion Skeet Shooter, was presented with the prestigious trophy as part of the BBC Sports Personality of the Year, which

was broadcast live on television in December. Amber, who was just 15 years old when she became the youngest ever winner of a Senior World Cup in Skeet Shooting, has just left Claires Court School to concentrate full-time on her sport. We wish her every success in the future.

16. Free Tickets to London Wasps Match



London Wasps are offering ISA pupils, parents and staff the chance to experience the match day atmosphere of live cup rugby at a game later this month. "Sting's Free Pass", an initiative funded by the London Wasps Community Foundation, offers free tickets to the London Wasps vs London Irish game at the Adams Park Stadium in

High Wycombe on Saturday 25 January. To find out how to claim your tickets [click here](#).

17. Lloyds Bank - New ISA Gold Supplier

LLOYDS BANK



ISA is delighted to welcome Lloyds Bank as a new member of the Gold Preferred Supplier Scheme. This new partnership will give ISA Members access to industry-leading financial support and guidance from Lloyds Bank's dedicated education team.

The bank's relationship managers can provide tailored financial solutions, including funding support for estate developments, access to ParentPay, the online portal for the payment of school trips and meals, and internet banking with a multi-party authorisation function.

Lloyds Bank has been voted Bank of the Year for an unprecedented eight consecutive years at the FDs' Excellence Awards in association with ICAEW and supported by the CBI & Real Business. Schools interested in finding out more can contact their local business relationship manager by [clicking here](#) – or email Ian Buss- Head of Education- [directly here](#).

18. Universities Offer Survey (HMC/GSA)

Head teachers and tutors supervising pupils applying for university places will be particularly interested to read the Universities Offer Survey produced on behalf of the sector by HMC/GSA. This gives some useful and detailed information about the pattern of university applications and offers for pupils in these schools. Please do pass on this link to your member of staff who oversees university applications. The full report can be read [here](#).

19. du Pré plc

This year ISA Gold Preferred Supplier du Pré plc celebrates its 35th birthday. The company was founded to supply affordable voicemail machines at a time when a British Telecom unit cost a month's wages or more. Cost-reduction for essential technology has remained a core aim since then.

du Pré now provides a full range of communication,

Internet and IT services to schools throughout the UK. Responding to demand the company recently launched a managed ICT service, tailored for each location to offer either full ICT infrastructure management or second line support and back-up to a school's existing ICT provision. du Pré also has an ever increasing range of high speed internet connection options, telephone system support and installation and academic calls and lines contracts – all available with an exclusive discount for ISA member schools.

To learn more, please call 01635 55 55 24, email education@dupre.co.uk or visit stand B462 Bett 2014 at London ExCel on 22-25 January.

20. Struggling Schools

Although thankfully rare, we have come across two schools recently that are understandably experiencing falls in numbers that potentially threaten their futures. Heads and governors/proprietors may initially feel the urge to keep this information close to their chests, though ISA can invariably help if given enough time to act. We have developed a range of relationships that can support schools in such circumstances, including potential purchasers (even for charitable trust schools). So please do contact us in strictest confidence at any time, as together we may be able to help a school through its toughest challenges.

21. Use of CEM Centre Data

Many ISA schools subscribe to one or more of the value-added data programmes run by the CEM Centre at the University of Durham, such as PIPS, Yellis, MidYIS or Alis. We have long thought that an aggregated ISA "cut" of that data would demonstrate the tremendous value that ISA schools add to their pupils' academic chances. To take this forward, we would need your permission, though Executive may assume this under a change to our Regulations to be considered shortly. Full protection of your data would be guaranteed, of course and no school or pupil would ever be singled out. Please do contact us if you have a view on this, as the issue will be discussed by Executive Council on 1 February.

22. ISA House and Charity Conversion

The purchase of ISA House was completed prior to Christmas and we will shortly undertake its refurbishment. We intend that funds for both aspects will come out of reserves and the building will become an appreciating asset for the Association's future. The name "ISA House" was officially adopted recently. ISA has also applied for charitable status in line with Members' wishes and we hope to have an update shortly. The Charity Commission has acknowledged our application but indicated that they have a current backlog of work to complete. They may well have additional requests to make of us before agreeing or denying the conversion.

23. Executive Council

Now is a good time to consider standing for election to Executive Council. Details of the process will be circulated in the next month, but opportunities will exist as one-third of Elective Councillors retire annually. Executive Council Members are also directors (and possibly future trustees) of the Association, guiding its future development on behalf of Members across the country. Your Area Co-ordinator is also an elected position and with Area AGMs approaching, you are encouraged to approach your Area Officers (details in the handbook) to find out more.

24. Historic Abuse Claims

In the post-Savile world, recent media headlines have braced the country for a raft of historic abuse claims at independent schools. While this flood may just be speculation, schools should check that their crisis management planning covers similar eventualities. Whether insurance will cover such historic claims is sometimes difficult for schools to establish and schools should keep a record of their providers over time.

ISBA have outlined that claims for abuse of a pupil by an employee at a school will either fall under the School's Public Liability policy or the Governors' Professional Indemnity policy. It is important to establish which applies, as they are written on a

different basis. Public Liability insurance is written on a 'claims occurring basis'. This means that the insurer who was in place when the abuse occurred takes responsibility for the insurance liability. It is often difficult to establish who was the insurer 20 or 30 years ago but in the event that the School is unable to establish who was the insurer, the cost of defending the claim will fall on the School. Professional Indemnity insurance, often written as part of a Governor's liability policy is written on a claims made basis. That means the insurer who is in place when the claim is made (not when the abuse happened) takes insurance responsibility. Most insurers indemnify the School for claims going back 10 years, assuming that is that there absolutely no suggestion or knowledge of a pending claim. If this is not considered to be a long enough period a School can purchase 'run off' insurance which can cover them for longer periods, but this is now a very difficult area, given the amount of abuse claims that have surfaced, so insurers are usually unwilling to extend liability.

25. ISC Affiliate Groups

ISC has established a number of affiliate groups that can provide useful expertise. You can download the 2014 [list here](#). Covering areas such as SEN, Child Welfare and ICT, each group has representatives from across the sector and can be contacted for advice or support via ISC. One group, the Political Working Party, is preparing the sector's approach to a potential change of government.

26. ISC Economic Impact Assessment

ISC has recently commissioned Oxford Economics to undertake an impact assessment detailing the independent sector's contribution to the economy. Initial findings include a £9.3 billion gross value added to the UK economy. The final report will include case studies of local impact and if you would like your school to feature, please send us details and we will forward to ISC. The final report will be available in the next few months.

27. Assembly Ideas (and WeDay 2014):

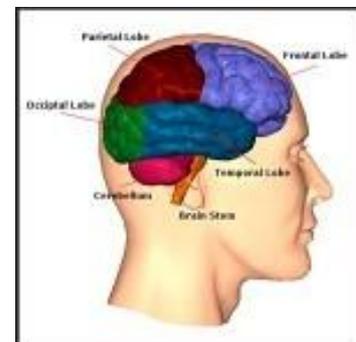
33 ISA schools have taken up the offer of free tickets to join 10,000 schoolchildren from across the country at We Day on the 7th March. The programme of inspirational speakers and performers is still closely guarded but will be announced [here](#). As media interest grows, children are asked to undertake one global and one local action as part of We Act, which opens up opportunities for related full school assemblies. Those registering for We Day and We Act can access materials that include:

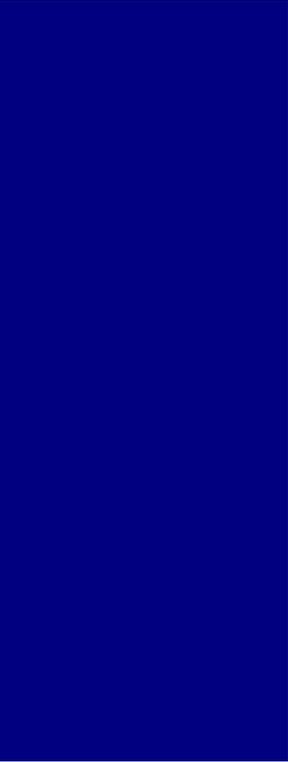
- A dedicated Youth Programming Coordinator who will provide personal support for young people, teachers and group leaders during your year of action.
- A library of printed and online educational resources and videos complete with lesson plans, how-to guides and backgrounders on different social issues.
- A campaigns kit to help you complete your local and global actions with Free The Children if you chose to do so.
- Free The Children assemblies, talks and leadership workshops, subject to availability.
- A national and international youth network via social media.
- Day-long youth summits for young people aged 12 and over (on a first come first served basis).

As just one example, ISA King Alfred School in London have been working on a hunger campaign in Ghana.

28. School Leadership Thoughts

Every year, ISA's Heads' Induction course in January (see above) covers a range of demands that Heads may face, including financial awareness, crisis management, dealing with parents and development planning. Yet one word that arose this year and one that perhaps is not used enough in our schools is the word "love". If you distil everything we do





and the reasons behind doing so, it invariably comes down to love. Heads believe passionately that they can make a difference to the life chances of the children in their care. Even as far back as the 18th Century, Pestalozzi warned us that it is easy to put too much emphasis on the head and the hand, while overlooking the heart. He said that, "a person who needs to have patience as a teacher is a poor thing. He should have love and joy". It's easy to forget this in the darkness of January. But Spring is just around the corner.