



Leadership is a practice and we can all be students. The commonality between all great leaders is that they all show up with an insatiable curiosity to learn more.

Simon Sinek

Podcasts | Blogs | Articles | Radio Shows

Do you have a blog, podcast or article you'd like to share with BSME schools? Let us know and we'll post it here:

Join the GEMS Founders School Dubai radio station

[Visit](#)

Follow Kai Vacher's blog about what works well at British School Muscat

[Read more](#)

Read about the global recruitment crisis written by Simon O'Connor, Principal and CEO of Jumeirah College

[Read more](#)

Pure (podcast) genius from students at Nord Anglia International schools

[Listen](#)

Dear BSME Colleagues

We have been delighted by the way BSME members have supported each other in these exceptional circumstances. Schools have adjusted to presenting varied synchronous and asynchronous learning using a variety of platforms and digital tools to engage students and their families. Partners have supported schools through a variety of learning tools, products and services made available free of charge or at a lower cost. The realities of distance living continue to present new and surprisingly time-consuming challenges for us all, not forgetting leaders' concerns around staff wellbeing (and their own), the financial implications of COVID-19, as well as their own family pressures - ensuring their own children's learning alongside the hundreds of families they serve, or, isolation, if they do not have a family at home.

In the last 8 weeks, BSME has published various additional guidance and resources for schools. These can be viewed [here](#).

BSME's lobbying and collaboration with key organisations once again made a difference to our schools by affecting:

1. extensions for BSO inspections;
2. ensuring the voices of international schools were heard by examination boards - thanks to our assessment partners for your support, and;
3. strengthened the case of international schools with Ministries of (Private) Education in the region in matters of fees, remote working and distance learning.

With a view to our forward planning, BSME is implementing preventative measures for the delivery of Professional Learning and Student Events:

1. All Professional Learning Conferences have been moved to Term 2 (January 2021 onwards) with the exception of the Safeguarding and Safer Recruitment Conference which will go ahead as an Online Conference. The number of webinars offered in Term 1 has been increased; these will continue to be offered free of charge and can be watched live or recorded.
2. All Term 1 Student Events have been postponed or cancelled. Additional online opportunities for students are being planned at present and will be communicated shortly.

Last but certainly not least, BSME bids three valued colleagues farewell at the end of this year:

- Cheryl Stewart, Professional Learning Coordinator
 - Anisha Khan, Digital Marketing Coordinator
 - Laura McCallum, Administrative Consultant
- BSME is incredibly grateful for your service and commitment to improving our members' experiences. We wish you well in your future endeavours.

Colleagues, may the next few weeks of work be rewarding, and, regardless where you find yourself, I wish you a well-earned summer break when it finally gets here!

Mark Leppard MBE
BSME Chair

September 2020: Launching BSME Networks

This term, BSME has piloted a network model with Hartland International School Dubai to launch a wider portfolio of networks for BSME schools. Our thanks to Fiona Cottam for her support and to Aminah Evans for leading what has been an overwhelmingly successful EYFS Network. In one term, we will have run 6 fortnightly webinars featuring 15 specialists, two of them BSME Partners, and 10 BSME School case studies. More than a thousand teachers will have benefitted from these webinars.

Moving forward, networks are a priority for BSME. The purpose of Networks is to ensure that school staff at all levels:

- feel supported by colleagues in similar roles, regardless of geographic context;
- have opportunities to share good practice with colleagues in BSME schools;
- learn from colleagues, partners and specialists through webinars, products and resources; and,
- further refine provision which, in turn, improves outcomes for students.

For networks to function efficiently, BSME depends on the support of member schools. If you would like your school to lead one of the below BSME Networks, or a member of your staff is an ideal candidate, please [email me](#).

Networks

- English - Primary
- English - Secondary
- Maths - Primary
- Maths - Secondary
- Science
- History
- Geography
- Music
- Dance
- Drama
- MFL
- SEND
- EAL
- Leadership Matters
- Safeguarding
- Teaching and Learning

The commitment required from your schools as well as the Person Specifications for the Network Leads can be found here:

[Network Guidelines for Schools](#)

BSME will also require the support of Partners to make these networks work! Read more about the requirements here:

[Information for Partners](#)

[Celebrating our Students - Click here for more](#)



Outstanding BSO Schools:

As the only DfE approved inspection framework, BSO remains the gold standard in accreditation for British international schools. In the last few months, two BSME schools have achieved remarkable outcomes: awarded outstanding across all standards! Congratulations to [British School Muscat](#) and [Qatar International School](#).



"British School Muscat is an outstanding school with numerous exemplary features."

- Standards attained by the students are very high, both academically and in other spheres.
- Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the students is outstanding.
- Parents, staff and students are very supportive of the school.
- Many aspects of the learning and care provided at the school are highly innovative.
- Curriculum innovations are driving a real push for the highest possible standards.

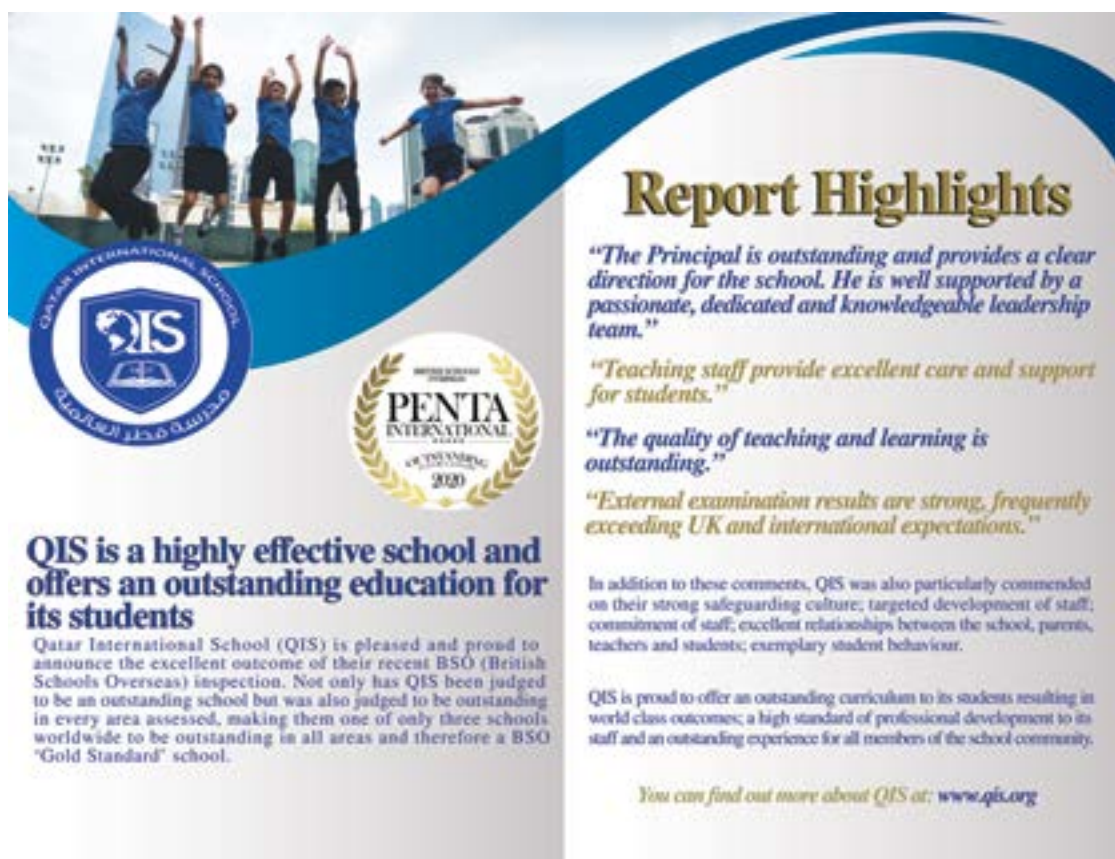
"The spirit of innovation and creativity runs throughout the school."

Outstanding
In every category

BSO inspection January 2020

British School Muscat is Oman's leading British school. A not-for-profit school providing a high quality education to children aged 3-18. Find out more at www.britishschoolmuscat.com

Logos: PENTA INTERNATIONAL GOLD STANDARD 2020, ISAC, BSME, BSO



Report Highlights

"The Principal is outstanding and provides a clear direction for the school. He is well supported by a passionate, dedicated and knowledgeable leadership team."

"Teaching staff provide excellent care and support for students."

"The quality of teaching and learning is outstanding."

"External examination results are strong, frequently exceeding UK and international expectations."

QIS is a highly effective school and offers an outstanding education for its students

Qatar International School (QIS) is pleased and proud to announce the excellent outcome of their recent BSO (British Schools Overseas) inspection. Not only has QIS been judged to be an outstanding school but was also judged to be outstanding in every area assessed, making them one of only three schools worldwide to be outstanding in all areas and therefore a BSO "Gold Standard" school.

In addition to these comments, QIS was also particularly commended on their strong safeguarding culture; targeted development of staff; commitment of staff; excellent relationships between the school, parents, teachers and students; exemplary student behaviour.

QIS is proud to offer an outstanding curriculum to its students resulting in world class outcomes; a high standard of professional development to its staff and an outstanding experience for all members of the school community.

You can find out more about QIS at: www.qis.org

Logos: QATAR INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, PENTA INTERNATIONAL GOLD STANDARD 2020

GESS 2020 Winners - Teachers and Schools



A huge BSME congratulations to the following colleagues for winning in their categories at the 2020 GESS Awards. We are incredibly proud that a BSME colleague won the Mark Duncan Award, our late colleague and Partner.



Judges Commendation Award

Michael Wilson - Cranleigh Abu Dhabi

Mark Duncan Award for Educational Influencer of the Year

Kate Jones – British School Al Khubairat



Best Use of Digital Learning in the Classroom

Olly Lewis - British International School Abu Dhabi

Innovation in Education Award

Philippa Wraithmell - "The Journey of Innovation" at Repton Abu Dhabi

High Performance Learning World Class School Status has been awarded to the following BSME Schools:

- British School Muscat
- Doha College
- GEMS Jumeirah College
- GEMS Jumeirah Primary
- GEMS Wellington International School

Please contact [Dr Andrew Lee](#) if you are interested in pursuing High Performance Learning in your school.

GEMS Founders School Dubai took the High Performance Learning (HPL) ethos on board in September 2019. They since report that it has been instrumental in supporting staff and students to navigate the new way of the world! Their [insightful article](#) might inspire you to consider HPL or a similar ethos to build upon. Their [HPL Newsletter](#) also ensures that parents and students are engaged with and share their vision for future success.

International School Awards 2020

Read about the outstanding achievements of 4 BSME schools which won their category at the International School Awards 2020.

1. British International School Abu Dhabi
2. Dubai College
3. International Community School Jordan
4. New Cairo British International School

The Aquila School - Approaches to Sustainability



The Aquila School, an exciting British school in Dubailand, is differentiating itself by offering unique educational features and approaches to learning. Children at The Aquila School have the opportunity to learn about sustainability, whilst applying it through real-life experiences in their own hydroponics farm.

The hydroponics farm consists of two farming units utilising an off-the-grid (that is, not using Dubai's water and electricity supplies) solution where solar panels and saltwater-to-freshwater production units combine with a state-of-the-art aquaponic greenhouse. This enables children to grow fresh, natural, organic produce using sustainable and environmentally friendly technology at school.

Wayne Howsen, Principal, commented: "At The Aquila School, our positioning is real learning for a real future. Our hydroponics farm is an integral part of our curriculum, and with this, we are able to give our children real-life learning experiences. Every child in our school has their own growing station, and throughout the year, they are able to grow a range of plants and produce. For example, some of our younger children have grown flowers for Mother's Day, and our older children have grown vegetables for their cookery classes."

"We will use the farms to support our food technology lessons, run our own enterprise activities where we sell the produce to our families (or maybe even sell the produce to the local supermarkets!), as well in the future even use this to prepare the children's lunches for our on-site cafeteria."

The project has been set up in collaboration with the Sharjah Research, Technology & Innovation Park (SRTIP) and Merlin Eco Green Technologies, who are renowned for developing sustainable farming solutions utilising innovative technologies in areas such as Solar Desalination, Vertical Farming, and Aquaponics.

"We hope that with this project, we will encourage children to learn and understand more about sustainable food production and different cultivation techniques, and perhaps inspire them to venture into this field of study, especially with the increasing food shortage problems around the world."

Watch the youtube video about the Hydroponics Farm at The Aquila School [here](#).

BSME Newsletter

JUNE 2020

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SCHOOLS

STUDENTS

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

MEMBERSHIP

RESOURCES



Rachel Richardson
Students Coordinator

Dear Colleagues,

This term was action-packed with seven BSME Student Events taking place and +1600 BSME students participating!

We were also very disappointed that both the BSME Large and Small U11 Games had to be cancelled due to COVID-19. Of course, we thank the host schools, Cranleigh Abu Dhabi and Horizon International School, and participating schools for all the time and effort that they put into the preparation for these events.

The U11/13/15 Netball tournament, hosted by Brighton College Abu Dhabi, kicked off the term with a little bit of drama as the weather tried to put a downer on the weekend, however, all teams took to the courts with some excellent standard of play.

Held in Dubai, the U13 Games was a tightly contested competition, with only eight points separating the top three teams. St Christopher's School Bahrain managed to secure the overall winning trophy with great performances in both the Boys and Girls Football.



BSME is delighted that Heidi Youssef in Year 2 at GEMS Wellington International School has agreed to create a bespoke artwork for our new offices in Dubai! When we saw Heidi's amazing art, we couldn't resist.

For further information contact:
students@bsme.org.uk



U13 GAMES 2020

At the end of January St Christopher's School Bahrain, hosted both the Young Musician of the Gulf (YMOG) competition and the U11 Football Tournament. Seven soloists and three ensembles made it through to the Grand Final of YMOG, where the lead adjudicator praised the standard of the finalist. The football tournament saw over 430 students compete in both a girls tournament on day 1 and a boys tournament on day 2 with St Christopher's teams taking the top spots in both tournaments.

The Early Years Sports Festival was a new event that Dubai British Foundation organised this term for students aged 4-5. The non-competitive 'Sports Day' included a carousel of activities and 10 BSME schools took part.



This year the BSME Golf Tournament was held at the Royal Golf Club Bahrain, hosted by St Christopher's School with six schools participating. The students were a mixture of all nationalities, genders and handicaps performing their best over a challenging course that provided some excellent scoring, both individually and as teams.



The inaugural U19 BSME Games was hosted by the British School Muscat in which six schools participated. After a tightly contested two days, British School Al Khubairat (BSAK) and British School Muscat finished joint 1st on the same points, the tiebreaker of 'competitions won' was used placing BSAK 1st!



Term 2 proved to be a busy one with superb performances by the BSME students across an array of competitions. Once again thank you to all the host schools, participants and the involved teachers!

Unfortunately, the BSME Student events due to take place in Term 3 have also had to be cancelled.

We hope that our students are all enjoying their online learning and we look forward to seeing you at the next BSME Student events!

For further information contact: students@bsme.org.uk

STUDENT FEATURES

British International School Abu Dhabi

[Read more on page 8](#)

Brighton College, Abu Dhabi

[Read more on page 8](#)

Park House English School

[Read more on page 8](#)

The English College Dubai

[Read more on page 8](#)

Kings' Schools Lego Tournament

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STUDENT FEATURES

BRITISH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL ABU DHABI



British International School Abu Dhabi is proud to announce that Year 12 student, Matilda, has won the 'UAE Young Journalist Award,' a competition run by The National and The British Embassy. This year's award focused on the Year of Tolerance and Matilda's submission, 'An Enduring Paradox', was the winning piece within the UAE.

Read more [here](#).

BRIGHTON COLLEGE ABU DHABI



Year 7 student at Brighton College Abu Dhabi, Mohamed Al Menhali, has been announced a member of the first Emirati Children's Parliament! The announcement was made upon the directives of H.H. Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak, President of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood, on 15th March coinciding with the UAE's celebration of the annual Emirati Children's Day.

Huge Congratulations, Mohamed!

PARK HOUSE ENGLISH SCHOOL



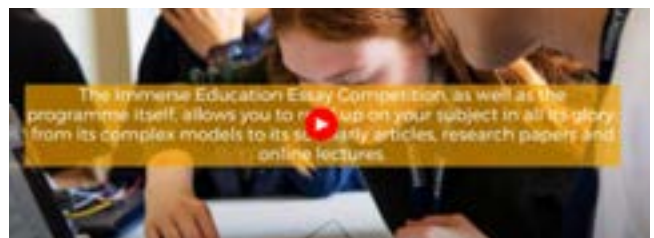
In March 2020, Park House English School students, Yethmi, Nuhansa, Wijesuriya and Wardah Shan participated in the Doha College Medical Conference. They were awarded first prize from 60 teams competing! A great achievement - and they won QR3,000 towards medical school fees.

Read more [here](#).

THE IMMERSE EDUCATION ESSAY COMPETITION



Aliya, a Year 12 student at The English College in Dubai, won a 25% scholarship to the Cambridge Summer Camp Programme for her essay submission. [Listen](#) to her reflect on her achievement here and read her outstanding essay [here](#). Congratulations, Aliya, the future is bright!



Meena, a Year 9 student at The English College in Dubai, won a 25% scholarship to the Cambridge Summer Camp Programme for her essay submission. [Watch her presentation](#) on her achievement and read her outstanding essay [here](#). Congratulations, Meena - an outstanding achievement indeed!

Kings' Schools Lego Tournament



On the 18th of January 2020 Kings' School, Al Barsha had the honour of hosting the Dubai regional round of The First Lego League (FLL). FLL is an international competition (organised locally by ATLAB) that challenges students from 9-16 years to compete in STEM challenges using either the LEGO Mindstorms or LEGO WeDo kits. Each year the challenge theme varies, and this year it was centred on building smart buildings and cities that solve challenges present and future with regards to pollution, sustainability accessibility and congestion.

This prestigious event, one of the largest LEGO related competitions, is designed around six core values which have a huge effect on participants' confidence as well as their technical and interpersonal skills:

- Discovery
- Innovation
- Impact
- Inclusion
- Teamwork
- Fun

The event saw over 1000 students from several Emirates plan, design, build and programme their autonomous robots to complete the challenges head to head and explain their reasoning and ideas to a panel of judges. Although our own team did not place on the podium, the event was a phenomenal success with dozens of awards being handed out across many categories.

Such a success comes not only from enthusiasm, engagement and drive from students and coaches across many different schools, but from the huge effort, tireless dedication and a willingness to commit beyond normal expectations from external vendors, support, academic and leadership staff, all of whom performed flawlessly and used the perfectly suited facilities of Kings' Al Barsha to great purpose.

The ingenuity, originality, resilience and growth of all the students involved really captured the spirit of the competition and proud, yet exhausted smiles at the end of the day on students and adults alike, spoke volumes about the success of the day.

Habeeb Mustafa

Kings' School Al Barsha



Cheryl Stewart
Professional Learning
Coordinator

Penta Level 1

"This course was a fantastic insight into the BSME inspection process as well as a great way to look more deeply into how to support your school moving forward. I will certainly be signing up for Level 2 PENTA training."

Professional Learning for Term 3 2020 looks very different from what we were hoping for when planning the calendar pre-COVID 19. The current restrictions mandated the cancellation of not only the BSME Annual Conference, but also of the PE Conference 2020 and our ever-popular Penta Level 2 Inspection Accreditation course. Both of these events have been rescheduled for Term 3 2021. Please see our [Professional Learning page](#) for more details.

With advice from regulatory bodies in the region suggesting that travel restrictions may continue into next year, we have made the difficult decision to postpone our face to face courses until early 2021. In term 1 we will be offering our accredited Safeguarding and Child Protection Levels 1-3 as a two-day online course, as well as our Safer Recruiting Techniques as a separate, one-day online course. For registration and more information please go to [Professional Learning](#).

Safer Recruitment Practices
Robin Watts, RAR Training

08
October 2020
08:30 - 11:30

ONLINE TRAINING

For further information please email learning@bsme.org.uk



Safeguarding and Child Protection (International) Levels 1 - 3
Robin Watts, RAR Training

06 - 07
October 2020
09:30 - 10:30

ONLINE TRAINING

For further information please email learning@bsme.org.uk



Looking forward, our Professional Learning calendar will include our inaugural Inclusion Conference at Jumeirah College Dubai (29 - 30 January 2021), our incredibly popular EYFS Conference (05 - 06 February 2021) at GEMS Founders School Dubai, as well as our Penta International Inspection Accreditation Levels 1 and 2.

- [Leadership Well-being in Crisis with Simon Mann](#);
- [Duke of Edinburgh's Participating from Home](#);
- [Resilient and Resourceful - Building Well-being and Mental Toughness through Positive Education, Clive Leach, Positive Education Specialist](#).

Our free webinar series will continue on some Mondays and all Thursdays during term-time throughout the next academic year. These one-hour, educational webinars will include topics like:

- online safety;
- well-being;
- independent writing in the early years;
- financial advice for international teachers;
- Arabic teaching;
- parental engagement;
- leadership and coaching;
- becoming a better TA; and many more.



In response to feedback from our members, BSME has entered into an exclusive agreement with Educational Success Partners (ESP) to secure preferential rates for BSME members for their suite of 100% online, DfE-approved NPQs. For more information on this and other discounts for BSME members, go to [Online Learning](#).

Distance learning has become a necessary replacement for face to face courses during this period of social isolation and distance learning. BSME has responded to this demand by increasing our webinar offer and fine-tuning our calendar to particular needs during this unprecedented time. Registration for these webinars has doubled from last year. Our free webinars, with special focus on the challenges brought about by COVID-19, include:

- [Tootoot's Safeguarding in the 21st Century](#);
- [Resolving Recruitment in the Region - a panel discussion with BSME recruiters](#);



The EYFS Conference 2020 enjoyed unprecedented success in what was the final month of face to face learning for this year. GEMS Founders School Dubai successfully hosted over 180 delegates and EYFS celebrities Alistair Bryce-Clegg, Elizabeth Jarman, and Pete Moorhouse. The themes were extensive including:

- Continuous provision
- Child-lead learning
- Technology in the Early Years
- Inclusion
- Secure environments
- Outdoor play
- Maths in EYFS
- Leadership
- Independent writing
- Children's photography
- Parental engagement
- Intelligent materials

A full cohort attended the BSME course, Inspection Accreditation Level 1, delivered by Penta International in January 2020. Thank you to the School of Research Sciences for hosting this popular event. Members continue to praise the course as essential preparation for their school inspections.

Professional learning at BSME is committed to helping our members through this challenging and uncertain time. We hope you are all keeping safe and well.

CPD Offers



Book **two** delegates, get your **third FREE!**

EYFS

"This was a fantastic conference led by amazing speakers. I felt the whole experience was extremely positive and as a school we have gained so much from it."

"It was even better than last year. Alistair Bryce-Clegg was the highlight for me. Fantastic presentation skills with a very important message. Let them play!"

"The BSME's EYFS 2020 conference surpassed all of my expectations! The speakers were superb in covering a range of aspects that they are passionate about. I attended with 2 of my colleagues and every keynote and seminar had us excitedly taking notes, discussing and feeling quite inspired. We came back to school with so many new ideas and feeling revitalised in our love and passion for EYFS. Thank you!"

"It was great to see well known professionals from the UK but also to see 'just teachers' from other schools sharing knowledge and ideas too."



Lisa Kirkley
BSME Membership
Coordinator



Contact
membership@bsme.org.uk
for guidance on accessing
the group

Dear Colleagues

I hope you and your families are well during these uncertain and challenging times.

I would like to thank the Partners who have offered various resources, some free or heavily discounted, to support BSME schools, teachers, parents and students while schools remain closed. These resources can be viewed on the Corona Virus support tab/Partner Offers.

Like most of you the BSME team is working remotely and continues to support you, so please do get in touch if there is anything you would like to discuss or share with us, we are here to assist you.

Remember to check in on your portal for regular updates and invaluable membership information. Schools can view the BSME constitution, Code of Conduct, terms and conditions as well as Accreditation and BSME Ltd information. For Partners, the Terms and Conditions of Membership document has been updated. Login is required to access your member portal; please do let [me](#) know if you need a reminder of your username.

School and [Partner](#) membership renewal for 2020-2021 is now open and we look forward to receiving your intentions to renew. Partner membership fees will not be increased next year. Thank you to those that have already submitted an intention form.

As you navigate your way through Covid-19, please remember to look after yourself, stay safe and do keep in touch with the team at BSME. We missed being able to catch up with you in March, so it's always great to hear from you.

With very best wishes,

Lisa

Membership Coordinator

IN MEMORY OF NIGEL MELEN



It is with great sadness that we bid farewell to Nigel, Principal of Scholars International Academy and BSME Country Representative for the northern and eastern Emirates.



Our thanks to Nan Billingham for her moving tribute on behalf of the organisation at Nigel's memorial. Read Nan's tribute [here](#).

New School Members

[Click here to find out more.](#)

New Partners

[Click here to find out more.](#)

Hello,

I hope you are well during this challenging time. As schools and partners continue to navigate this tricky and uncertain landscape it is great to see so much innovation and collaboration, and the creative use of online learning platforms as well as free resources supporting schools and learners. To facilitate this sharing we are pleased to launch a [BSME LinkedIn group](#) which will enable BSME members to connect in one space to engage in discussion about thought leadership articles, relevant events or webinars, as well as relevant product updates.

The purpose and process are outlined below but if you have any questions or feedback please [email me](#).

To get started, follow the steps outlined in the Group Guidelines.

Thanks, speak soon,

Deniece Wheeler

BSME Partner Executive Representative

International Partnerships Manager

Tes Institute

MEMBERSHIP FEATURES

m2r Education in line for 5 awards in 2020!

[Click here to find out more.](#)

COVID19 and the Future of Remote Schooling

[Click here to find out more.](#)

New Schools

PACE British School Sharjah



Durham School for Girls



GEMS Founders Al Mizhar



New Partners

Fiction Express



TTS



Pacific Prime



Educare Learning Ltd



Early Excellence



Oxford International AQA

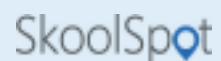


Fair Assessment. Validity.

Swiss International Leadership Camp



Skoolspot



Spencer Education



Worldteachers



New Resources

To support schools during distance learning, BSME has created and collated the following new resources for BSME schools in the last 8 weeks

1. Remote Recruitment

BSME's Recruitment Partners worked with the Team to produce a suite of [Remote Recruitment resources](#) which include a professional learning module. This will contribute to ensuring that schools are fully staffed in the new academic year.

2. BSME EYFS Network

BSME, in collaboration with Hartland International School, put together a 6-episode webinar series for [EYFS practitioners](#) to ensure that those teaching our youngest students are supported in Term 3. This model will inform our new BSME Networks launching in September 2020.

3. COVID-19 Updates

BSME has collated an up-to-date online learning [resource bank](#) which includes examination board and DfE [updates](#).

4. SEND

The BSME Team has also created a [Guidance for Leaders of SEND page](#) with reference materials in support of students with additional needs; we know that these students and their families find the current context particularly challenging.

5. Well-being of BSME Leaders

A new Well-being for BSME Senior Leaders page is another example of our 'by the members, for the members' approach to supporting each other; we know you will enjoy learning from your colleagues!

6. Additional Professional Learning

Several new webinars were added to the Professional Learning calendar to support colleagues in BSME schools. [Register](#) to watch these live! Missed it? [Watch the Recording](#) on the BSME YouTube channel.



[W www.bsme.org.uk](http://www.bsme.org.uk)

[f www.facebook.com/bsmeorg](https://www.facebook.com/bsmeorg) [@BSMEorg](https://twitter.com/BSMEorg) [in British Schools in the Middle East](https://www.linkedin.com/company/british-schools-in-the-middle-east) [bsmeorg](https://www.instagram.com/bsmeorg)

BSME is a not-for-profit organisation