

JANUARY 2021

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What members are saying

“

The new BSME networks have allowed staff the ability to make personal selections about their ongoing CPD, the amount they participate in and for many, the opportunity to complete this during their own time scale. An excellent support system for all teachers to broaden their horizons or fine tune specific interests.

Rachael Wilding, Principal,
Smart Vision School

Just to say a huge thank you to you and BSME for this initiative. It really is wonderful to have a network that supports excellence in Teaching and Learning.

John Bagust, Principal, NCDBS

Thank you for facilitating an engaging and informative webinar with contributions from respected academics and leaders. I feel inspired and motivated as an inclusion leader to implement changes to remove barriers to learning from our SEN/EAL children. Looking forward to the next session!

Yasoon Akhtar, Inclusion Leader, British School Salalah

Every term, BSME keeps schools up to date with educational developments in the UK. Visit your school portal on the BSME website for the most recent UK Updates newsletter which includes information about...

- Relationships and Health Education Frameworks
 - The Engagement Model for SEND Assessment
 - Early Career Framework Review
 - Changes to NPQs, especially at Middle Leadership level
 - The updated Governance Handbook
 - Ofsted Updates
- ...to mention but a few!

Podcasts | Blogs | Articles

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:

Roy Blatchford's blogs inspire thought and reflection:

[Visit](#)

Follow Ben Cooper, Primary Principal at GEMS Wellington Academy Al Khail, for blogs, vlogs and inspired teaching resources

[Read more](#)

Great Persyou podcast available here

[Read more](#)

I trust that this festive season provided some much needed downtime with family and friends. I hope you also stole moments for reflection and contentment in all you've achieved in the most challenging of times. I am unsure that anyone could have convinced our 2019-selves that we could get through 2020 with the grace and dignity which now epitomises our profession. I constantly marvel at the resilience of staff and students - we should be proud.

BSME has continued to support schools in a variety of ways this year.

The launch of the BSME Networks has been well received with opportunities for BSME colleagues to connect through discussion forums, 128 webinars and networking opportunities with BSME Partners on the [BSME website](#). With just over 1,400 BSME leaders and teachers already registered, please ensure that your school is making use of this incredible, exclusive offer.

[BSME Country Reps](#) have strengthened our in-country networks too. They have continued regular online meetings, set up Whatsapp groups for ease of communication, supported individual schools with regulatory guidance and even

continued the age old tradition of (virtual) quiz nights. Please reach out to them if you need any further support.

The Headship Induction Partner

Programme has been well taken up this year; if you're interested in supporting a principal, head of school or Deputy Head new to headship or new to the region, please contact BSME CEO, [Olivia Roth](#). This programme recognises that it can be lonely at the top!

The cancellation of BSME Games and the Annual Conference were challenging decisions for the BSME Executive Committee, but the right ones. [Rachel Richardson](#), Students Coordinator and [Cheryl Stewart](#), Professional Learning Coordinator, provide some alternative online provision in this newsletter. We will all certainly be valuing those in-person learning opportunities all the more in future.

Olivia will be in touch shortly to request expressions of interest in serving as an Executive Committee member. As you know, BSME is a '*for the members, by the members*' organisation. Moving forward, we need your commitment to help us continue the momentum we have established.

Mark Leppard MBE
BSME Chair

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Celebrating Schools

International School Awards 2020

Pathways to continued and university education

British International School Abu Dhabi, UAE



Safeguarding Initiative

Jeddah Prep and Grammar School, Saudi Arabia



The English School, Kuwait



Digital Technology

Deira International School, UAE

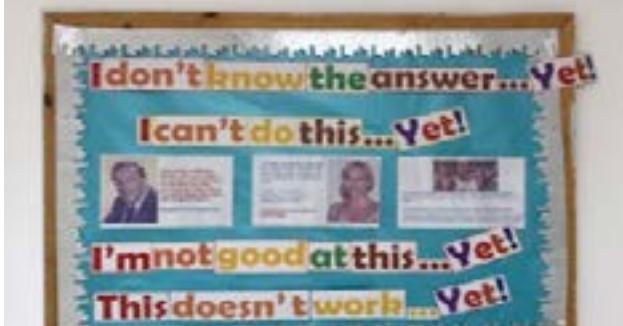


Winners are announced on Monday 18 January 2021.



We wish all BSME schools the best of luck!

THE POWER OF YET!



The British School Alexandria Way with HPL!

The British School of Alexandria is delighted to announce our successful accreditation in May 2020 with the HPL organisation (High Performance Learning). This puts us into an extremely elite group of HPL World Class Schools. We are very excited to also announce that BSA is not only the first school in Egypt to achieve this but also we are the only school in Africa! HPL is a philosophy of teaching which encompasses a set of skills and attitudes designed to meet the evolving needs of the 21st century. [Read more](#)

Crops to classrooms: growing engagement

When the idea of a school farm was first brought up, our initial thoughts were of building a small manageable vegetable patch. A few months on and we can certainly agree that GEMS Metropole Farm is so much more than that. Our modest peace garden has been transformed into a dedicated outdoor learning space with fruits and vegetables including an indoor hydroponics farm, and to the delight of all our students, even some chickens and rabbits have taken up residence. [Read more](#)

Outstanding BSO Schools:

As the only DfE approved inspection framework for international schools, BSO remains the gold standard in accreditation for British international schools. BSME congratulates GEMS Wellington International School on achieving outstanding across the board!



GEMS Wellington
International School

مدرسة جميس ولینغتون
الدولية

“We are committed to ensuring students are given every opportunity to experience exceptional learning opportunities in enabling environments – safe, happy, challenged and successful.

Mrs Maryssa O'Connor
Principal/CEO, British Premium Schools, Group Lead

‘OUTSTANDING’ school rating since 2009

An Outstanding British Curriculum School in Dubai

GEMS Wellington International School is a truly ground-breaking learning environment that provides exceptionally high standards of education to all the students. The school, spanning an area of eight acres, offers a spectrum of facilities and resources that combines a world class education with distinctive, state-of-the-art infrastructure.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- The school follows a British curriculum which is exceptionally well planned and sequenced. Those pupils who move on to the sixth form receive a highly individualised programme within the IB curriculum.
- The quality of teaching, learning and assessment across the school is outstanding.
- Teachers know pupils well as individuals and have a detailed knowledge of their strengths and weaknesses.
- Pupils grow to become mature, well-rounded young people.

BSO Inspected

High Performance Learning

WORLD CLASS SCHOOL



International School Leader Magazine December 2020 issue is now published. It is a special issue focused on pathways to higher education.

Download your free copy here



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Dear Colleagues,

This term has seen a very different start to the academic year with the unfortunate cancellation of all BSME Games (that were due to take place in 2020 - 2021) and the stand alone BSME Sports events.

However, we were pleased to see the increased engagement with several of our online competitions that are taking place.

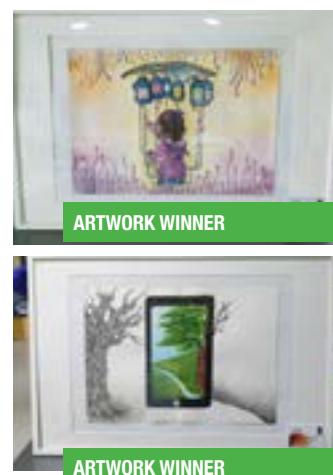
SRS BSME Art Competition

The SRS BSME Art Competition, hosted by The School of Research Science, allows talented students to communicate through the field of art and the chosen theme this year is 'My experience during Covid-19 pandemic'. There have been x20 member schools register their participation in the competition with nearly x400 students involved. The winning entries will be displayed on the BSME student event page once the judging has taken place.



Rachel Richardson
Students Coordinator

BSME ART



Bridging Learning gaps using technology

[Read more](#)

The link between student wellbeing and attainment

[Read more](#)

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

BSME Primary Creative Writing

The BSME Primary Creative Writing Event, hosted by Modern English School Cairo, provides students with an opportunity to demonstrate their ideas and imagination through writing. It also offers students a platform to an international audience who will read and judge their work. The theme of the event this year will be 'Wishing Tales'. There are currently x40 schools participating in this event.

BSME App Design Challenge

The BSME App Design Challenge provides a creative opportunity for children to develop their moral and social responsibilities whilst preparing for their roles as leaders of the future. Hosted by The Pearl Academy, Abu Dhabi, we are looking forward to seeing the presentations from the 13 schools that are participating in this challenge.

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Young Musicians of the Gulf

Hosted by St Christopher's School Bahrain, YMOG will be using a virtual format for the competition this year and we are excited to see the individual entries! The final stages of the competition will be taking place between the 22nd to the 25th February 2021. Make sure you have a look at the YMOG youtube channel for the results!



Keep a look out for some new online student events and if your school would like to host a BSME competition then please do not hesitate to get in touch!

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

BSME Secondary Schools Writing Challenge

We are delighted that Aamity International School, Abu Dhabi, launched the inaugural BSME secondary school writing event this year. Given the current international situation, outlets for creativity have never been so important. With 24 schools registered to participate we look forward to seeing aspiring young writers expressing themselves and providing us with some top quality writing.



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BSME is a '*for the members, by the members*' organisation of schools and business partners. The services offered by the organisation support school improvement through DfE-approved accreditation, professional learning and peer support, and student opportunities.

BSME Partners' services, products and tools are more important than ever to our member schools, providing support and knowledge to help guide us through this challenging time. Our Partners have quickly and professionally tailored their services to meet a radically different educational landscape; moving many of their services online, often offering resources at reduced rates and some for free.

To learn more about our partners and what they can offer your school please refer to the [Partner Directory](#), and our [Partner Offers](#) page which is updated regularly.

During the past year we have seen education undergo radical change as necessitated by the public health policies implemented to keep us safe and healthy. As a membership organisation we strive to maintain communication with our schools to better understand what is needed and when. In moving our professional learning conferences online, to increasing our free webinar resources through our [Networks](#) webinars, as well as providing up to date information on changes to recruitment in the region, we have modified how we help schools to better suit this new normal.

Thank you for engaging in these services and for your positive feedback about the support being offered. We will continue to strive to meet your needs whatever challenges the new year brings.

International Teacher Competency Framework

[Read more](#)

Bridging Learning gaps using technology

[Read more](#)

The link between student wellbeing and attainment

[Read more](#)

Using Data to Improve Safeguarding and Wellbeing in International Schools

[Read more](#)

Expatriate Teacher Retention in the UAE

[Read more](#)

Veema offers high-quality and affordable CPD for your school staff

[Read more](#)

The link between student wellbeing and attainment

Written by Adrian Bethune



“Do happier children learn better?”



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BRITISH SCHOOLS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Networks

Happy New Year from all of us at BSME.

Our new service to BSME members, BSME Networks, has taken off! Thank you for supporting this exclusive service to BSME schools. Your staff will have access to discussion forums, webinars and links to partners by subject and whole school priority. Register [here](#).

We are excited to be launching two conferences in Term 2.



Our inaugural Inclusion Conference 2021 is the result of 18 months' planning with Louise Dawson, Head of Inclusion at Jumeirah College. Louise also serves as the BSME Inclusion Network Lead.

Our inaugural Inclusion Conference has something for your entire Inclusion team with workshops for Leaders, department heads, SENCOs, and classroom teachers looking to refine SEND provision.

The consistently oversubscribed annual EYFS Conference



2021 also takes on a new online format. Our thanks to GEMS Founders School Dubai and Hartland International for their support in hosting this conference. A special word of thanks to Aminah Evans, Foundation Stage Leader at Hartland International School, for Leading the BSME EYFS Network.

The third annual EYFS Conference 2021 carries on from successful conferences by showcasing keynote speakers Greg Bottrill, Judith Twani, and Karen Wilding. Sessions include co-play, problem solving in maths, transitioning from EYFS to KS1, leadership skills, and improving observation.

Using a mixture of live stream keynotes with interactive Q and A sessions, and recorded workshop sessions, we believe that this blended model offers your teams a chance to discuss topics with our experts as well as providing recorded sessions as an on-demand resource to be used in the coming months.

Registrations are being taken per school to allow cost effective professional development.

[More information on Conferences.](#)

BSME Newsletter

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Course Level 1 has been modified to an online format making this accessible to all of our members regardless of location. Join us for this interactive, multi-day course to better prepare yourself, your department and your school for inspections. This is the first course in a series of three levels that lead to a school inspector qualification. [Register here.](#)

The Professional Learning weekly webinar series showcases experts on a wide range of education topics such as



Inspection Accreditation Level 1
Penta International
Presenter Colin Dyson

28 – 30
January 2021
08:30 to 17:00
Horizon International School, Dubai

Don't miss out!
Book your place by
28 December 2020

Register at
www.bsme.org.uk

A black and white photograph of a classroom or lecture hall. A teacher stands at the front, facing a group of students who are seated in rows, listening attentively.

psychological resilience, STEM, parental engagement, immersive marketing, guided reading and supporting your TAs. This series is free and available to the entire education community.

[Register for upcoming webinars](#)

[Watch recorded webinars](#)

For further information contact learning@bsme.org.uk



[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