

THE AEGIS STANDARD

June 2021

Catch up on all our latest news, including school and guardianship organisation member updates. We hope you enjoy reading!

AEGIS IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS

21

PRELIMINARY INSPECTIONS



GOLD STANDARD INSPECTIONS

6

9

GOLD STANDARD REINSPECTIONS



ACCREDITED GUARDIANSHIP ORGANISATIONS

75

20

ACCREDITED PRELIMINARY GUARDIANS



GOLD STANDARD ACCREDITED GUARDIANS

55

275

HANDLED OVERSEAS ENQUIRIES FOR OUR ACCREDITED MEMBERS



FULLY INDEPENDENT SINCE

1994

SETTING THE HIGHEST STANDARDS IN GUARDIANSHIP

QUARANTINE PROVISION

by AEGIS accredited guardianship organisations



Several AEGIS accredited guardians are planning to offer quarantine for international students in August, in order to support schools before the September start.

Please **click here** for the list and feel free to share with overseas parents and agents:



AEGIS COVID-19 SAFE CHARTER

Updated version

The AEGIS Covid-19 Safe Charter has been updated to reflect the latest guidance regarding entry to UK from green, amber and red list countries and territories (see Testing & Travel section) and additional hosting advice from Public Health England who advise that students continue to participate in a twice weekly asymptomatic LFD testing during stays with host families (see Hosting of International Students FAQs).

If you are a guardian and you would like to display the AEGIS Covid-19 Safe Charter logo, please do get in touch via info@aegisuk.net

[Read the updated charter here](#)

TRAINING AND CONFERENCE

TRAINING

FREE Safeguarding Update covering 'Everyone's Invited' for AEGIS Members

Thursday 17th June 10.00 – 11.00

General Safeguarding update including Everyone's Invited & how it affects international students, DBS check and updates.

Click for more information

Please email sharon@aegisuk.net if you would like to join. Non-members are also welcome.



Online Guardianship Organisation and Host Family Safeguarding Training

AEGIS offers bespoke, basic safeguarding training for guardianship organisation staff and homestays. For further details please contact sharon@aegisuk.net

Upcoming events for UK secondary schools and guardianships:

ST/alphe conferences

ST Alphe Secondary Focus, Frankfurt - Online,
29th - 30th September 2021

ST Alphe Secondary Focus, Hong Kong,
20th - 22nd February 2022

ST Alphe Secondary Focus, London,
24th - 26th April 2022

Book these events at the online price (£1495 + vat), and pay no more if the event can be held in-person.

Book 2 events and the 3rd is FREE!

AEGIS MEMBER SCHOOL NEWS



OXFORD INTERNATIONAL STUDY CENTRE RE-OPENS

Oxford International Study Centre has at last re-opened for in-person teaching, in line with UK government guidance, and are welcoming applications for their 2021 Oxford summer programme. The summer will undoubtedly look different to previous years, but they are looking forward to offering a high-quality learning experience to all students, whatever form that may take. In person in Oxford, class sizes are small and socially-distanced, and all programmes are also available online. Students with an existing booking can transfer between online tuition and tuition in Oxford at any time. They may choose to begin with a few lessons each week online, before travelling to Oxford in July or August. The most important thing is that arrangements are flexible, and students can book with confidence.

Ivan, a former student from Russia talks of his experience, "I am pleased to recommend OISC for all who are looking a great quality education customised by their own needs. Having spent a week studying mathematics individually (1-to-1) with a tutor, I received a strong foundation for the further advancement in this area. The programme was fully designed for my purposes and the tutor scrupulously closed the gaps in my knowledge. Moreover, I liked the tutorial system approach, when I was given a question or a task and instead of the direct solution, I was able to try my own hand at solving the problem. It is not very simple, but allows you to significantly advance in a short time.

The effectiveness of the tutorial system is not possible without full concentration on the subject, and the staff of the Centre did everything so that nothing distracts me. To sum up, I was absolutely happy to study in the Centre and I strongly recommend it for everyone!"

For further details please visit: <http://www.oxintstudycentre.com>



Oxford International Study Centre
individually designed study programmes in the heart of Oxford

AEGIS MEMBER SCHOOL NEWS



WOODBIDGE SCHOOL

WOODBIDGE SCHOOL

RAF Cadet James aims for the skies with success in two national STEM challenges

Woodbridge School's James, Year 12, is a full-time boarder while his parents live in Dubai. James has been placed first-equal in the RAF's STARCHASER & ASTRA-SAT Space Challenge. Taking on the Challenge alone, and not as a part of a team, James – a member of the RAF in the School's Combined Cadet Force (CCF) – won from an original field of over one hundred RAF air, community and school Cadet units, tying with a four-Cadet team from Oswestry.

The STARCHASER & ASTRA-SAT Space Challenge is a STEM competition for RAF Air Cadets to showcase their innovative ideas in relation to space, tasking them to consider how satellites could be used to have a positive impact on the economy, our health or the environment. As a winner, James will have his name and CCF (RAF) School painted on a fin of the UK's STARCHASER rocket, ready for its big launch.

Aspiring pilot James, aged 17, has also been named runner-up out of 31 teams in a major national contest, BAE Systems' 'Future Cockpit Design' competition, and was the only Cadet to make the top five.

BAE Systems' competition was to design 'a cockpit for the future'. James' idea was to develop a piece of software that would take Google Maps' satellite data and NASA's height maps' data to allow a pilot anywhere in the world to view their surroundings, ground targets and objectives, in an easily-intelligible 3D map, which they can manipulate at their own discretion.

Watch James being interviewed on his life as an RAF Cadet, his future plans and being an international boarder at Woodbridge School [here](#)

For further information on Woodbridge School, visit www.woodbridgeschool.org.uk

AEGIS MEMBER SCHOOL NEWS



FULHAM SCHOOL

A Sixth Form with London as a classroom

Set in a prime West London location, close to international airports, Fulham School is well-situated to make the most of a bustling, culturally rich capital city. As an independent, co-educational through-school with London on its doorstep, this prestigious school is best placed to take advantage of the wealth of uniquely exciting opportunities on offer for children of all ages.

The new Sixth Form opens in September 2021, complete with purpose-built classrooms and state of the art science labs. The curriculum, IB Diploma, supports the school's aim of providing not only an outstanding academic education but teaching students the critical life skills that enable them to make balanced and educated choices about their future and the next steps in their educational journey.

Lessons are complemented with access to opportunities in every subject group and choice of career, such as; drop-in visits to the BBC or SKY studios to explore the world of journalism and media; performing in high-quality local theatre productions or sitting in on recording sessions as an introduction to the performance arts and the music industry.

Despite its urban location, Fulham School is surrounded by green spaces where pupils have access to a vast array of sporting activities, from famous sports rounds to world-class rowing clubs on the River Thames and an abundance of parks. At Fulham School, we want all our pupils to excel in the areas they care about most, but beyond that, we want them to engage with their learning and their futures – with independence of mind and confidence of spirit.



[Click here](#) for more information about Fulham School and the new Sixth Form opening in September 2021

LVS ASCOT

Young Artist Wins National Award

Local student, Evelyn Chen, 18, has won a national art competition with her detailed pencil study, entitled 'Old Lady'. Evelyn, who is a boarder at LVS Ascot, won the Key Stage 5 drawing category at the national finals of the Independent Schools Association (ISA) Art competition.

Evelyn is going on to study a degree in graphics and hopes to turn her flair for art into a career.

Evelyn and her fellow student Abhishek Gurung both won in the ISA's London West Art Competition and were automatically put through to the national finals, competing against entries from 550 schools nationwide. Abhishek scooped second place in the national Key Stage 5 textiles category with his stunning gown and is now studying at the London College of Fashion.



The independent day and boarding school, on London Road, Ascot, offers a range of creative courses at sixth form, including A Levels and BTECs in art, design, drama, media production, textiles, photography and textiles. The school aims to prepare students for their next steps, into higher education and beyond.

The Art department at LVS Ascot aims to shape creative thinkers for the future by providing an inclusive environment where students are encouraged to engage with a diverse range of art forms. The School offers Art, Photography and Textiles at both GCSE and A Level.

Speaking on behalf of LVS Ascot, school principal, Christine Cunniffe, commented; "I'm delighted to see our student work recognised again for its excellence. The School is focussed on inspiring young people and giving them the courage and freedom to exceed their expectations and Evelyn and Abhishek have done just that." ISA National Arts Officer, Marie-Ange Moncuycy, added; "The standard of entries this year was outstanding. A huge congratulations to everyone who made it to the national finals and particularly to our winners. Art enables us to express ourselves, connect with audiences, galvanise communities and inspire. It offers an amazing array of career opportunities and looking at our winners it is clear to see the rising young talent that the industry can look forward to welcoming in coming years."

The ISA's National Art Competition is held annually and enables independent schools to showcase their pupils' art and for teachers to share best practice and ideas. Categories cover different age groups and genres, from 2D art, through to fashion and photography.

For further information about LVS Ascot, visit www.lvs.ascot.sch.uk

AEGIS MEMBER SCHOOL NEWS



HEADINGTON SCHOOL

Supporting international students

The first lockdown was a shock for everyone. Even though schools knew it was on the horizon, they did not realise how long it would go on for. Luckily, Headington was already set up to support online learning! With the Google Classrooms application already in use and every pupil from Upper 3 (Year 7) to Upper 5 (Year 11) having a school-supplied iPad, girls could access their lessons from all over the world, from London to Hong Kong and the USA.

The preparation for our international students arriving back at school in September started well in advance of the Autumn Term and a system was put in place to help support families every step of the way. All overseas boarders were invited to return to school in advance of the new term so that they could quarantine in school, if needed. The School organised airport pick up with school staff arriving at Heathrow Airport at all hours of the day to meet our girls, all eager to get back to school and see their friends, or indeed make new ones. We received wonderful feedback from families saying "Thank you for your special care during this time" and "Many thanks and help to extend my family's appreciation to all the staff at Headington for the great arrangement and thoughtfulness" to name a few.

The School also produced an online 'Keeping you Safe' booklet for all Headington families which outlined the processes put in place to keep everyone in the community protected and informed. This was a fantastic guide and resource for those unfamiliar with the Government guidelines in the UK. During the October half term, the School remained open for those boarders who could not return home due to travel restrictions and over Christmas, staff helped organise Covid tests for pupils that needed to travel.

It would be remiss to say this year hasn't been demanding on both families and schools but we prefer to focus on the positive outcomes. The amazing videos to help overseas families learn about the different sides of the School, from **boarding houses**, to the **Music Department** and **rowing squad**, and the increasing bonds with our international families have been fantastic. We've met our pupils' pets online and introduced girls learning remotely to the new Hive building through iPad tours with their form group. As Francis of Assisi said 'Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible'.

AEGIS MEMBER GUARDIANSHIP ORGANISATION NEWS

UKGUARDIANSHIP

A home away from home

It has been a difficult year for everyone but particularly for students who have been stuck in the UK, unable to see their families. Our lovely host families have been so welcoming to students and have offered them a 'home away from home'.

UKG student Xinyi has been staying with Janet for every school holiday over the past year and they have developed a really special bond. So much so that Xinyi is going to stay with Janet over the summer holidays too. In the recent exeat weekend, Janet hosted Xinyi and another UKG student, Amy. Janet wanted to make the weekend special for the girls so she took them on day trips to the Peak District and the Trafford Centre. They had a really wonderful time.

We are so thankful to our host families for offering such a great service to our students, and the students' parents are also very grateful, as can be seen from this recent message we received from Xinyi's mum: "We miss Xinyi very much and worry about her. During this special period, we are very grateful for you and Janet care for Xinyi."

If this year has taught us anything, it's the importance of having a reliable guardian in place for all international students, and host families who really care and treat students as members of their own family.



AEGIS MEMBER GUARDIANSHIP ORGANISATION NEWS



LIVING LEARNING ENGLISH

launches COVID-safe 'Courses with Quarantine' in the UK

Our COVID-safe plan

We regularly update our guidance, as soon as new information is released by the UK government. Our plan contains procedures for teachers and hosts to keep everyone safe and includes the latest travel information, arrival and departure procedures and testing schedules. We send out a copy with every enquiry.

Developed with teachers and students

We want our teachers to feel confident when hosting a student who needs to quarantine. Our home tuition teacher, Kay, helped to develop our procedures in a real quarantine setting - Kay hosted her student, Olesia, for one of our first Quarantine courses and helped us to develop our COVID-safe plan and procedures for students returning to school. Olesia has since returned for another course with Kay - proof of her dedication to making a safe, welcoming and fun teaching environment, even in quarantine!

Our amazing host families

We'd like to thank our teachers and their families for welcoming students into their homes throughout the pandemic and going above and beyond to help students! Our guardianship students, some of whom have been unable to return home, have had lovely stays over the school holidays. It's been so important for these students who are far away from home at a difficult time, so we think our teachers are superstars!

Courses with Quarantine

A course with Quarantine with one of our fantastic teachers means time well spent - whether students are arriving to the UK for school, or to study English and be immersed in UK culture and language - they will form a bubble with their teacher, live in their home for lessons and family time with no masks and social distancing, while they complete the required UK quarantine.

We're taking bookings for students returning to school in September, for two-week 1:1 courses with quarantine.



ProtectED Student Safety & Wellbeing



AEGIS and ProtectED have recently been in discussion about their common aims to safeguard international students. We look forward to working more closely with ProtectED in the future and for now, here is an introduction to their work.

ProtectED is the first national accreditation scheme for student safety, security and wellbeing at UK universities. The Code of Practice was proposed by academics and the Security Manager at the University of Salford and security consultancy K7 Compliance Ltd, and researched and developed by the Design Against Crime Solution Centre at the University of Salford. They noted a lack of common standards around student safety and security to guide practice in higher education institutions, and that this was particularly concerning given the nature of students as a vulnerable group. The university sector is publicly funded, but student support isn't currently regulated – there's no agreed national standard that universities must meet. This means the quality of student support can vary considerably between universities.

ProtectED addresses five areas: Core Institutional Safety and Security; Student Wellbeing and Mental Health; International Students; Student Harassment and Sexual Assault; and the Student Night Out. The ProtectED 'International Students' instrument concentrates on the specific needs of international students and was created with the help of experts from the British Council and UKCISA.

Research has found some universities miss certain aspects of the unique support that international students need for a positive experience studying in the UK. ProtectED aims to ensure member universities equip all international students with the knowledge and skills to:

1. International student recruitment and the student's selection of a UK HEI
2. Pre-Arrival to the UK
3. Arrival
4. International Student Orientation
5. During Study (addressing the support needs of international students during their studies through their academic career to graduation).

ProtectED Member universities must provide support to international students on aspects including: accommodation; police registration; opening a UK bank account; as well as make provisions for students remaining on campus during university holidays, ensuring institutions are keeping their students safe on and off campus, enabling them to get the best from their university experience.

For more information on ProtectED, visit www.protect-ed.org or email info@protect-ed.org

We need your support



AEGIS is a registered charity and, as such, we are reliant on membership subscriptions from school and accreditation and membership from guardianship organisations.

If you are a school reading this and you are not yet a member then please do get in touch. Membership is low-cost and full of benefits to the school, including use of a special school logo showing your commitment to good guardianship.

See our membership page and enrol today

NEW AEGIS MEMBERS

Since our last newsletter we congratulate the following AEGIS members for passing accreditation:

Preliminary Accredited Guardianship Organisations

- Edugo Guardian
- Genesis Educational Planning
- Great British Guardians
- IQ Consultancy
- Jenkins Enterprises
- Oxford Education & Services Ltd
- UM Education

[Full List of Preliminary Accredited Guardianship Organisations](#)

Gold Standard Accredited Guardianship Organisations

- Cherry Education Consultancy

Gold Standard Accredited Guardianship Organisations - Re-accreditation

- Alpha Guardians
- Bright World Guardianships
- College Guardians
- Living Learning English
- Oxford Guardians
- Quest Guardians
- Study Links
- UKGuardianship

[Full List of Gold Standard Accredited Guardianship Organisations](#)

And we welcome the following new Member Schools

- Eton College
- Marymount International School
- Rugby School
- St Peter's School, York
- Walhampton School
- Westbourne House School

[Full List of Member Schools](#)

Thank you to all our member schools and guardianship organisations for your support.



FOLLOW US

Keep up with all our news on our social media channels



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.



AEGIS

Association for the Education &
Guardianship of International Students
The Wheelhouse, Bond's Mill Estate, Bristol Road,
Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, GL10 3RF
+44 (0) 1453 821293
www.aegisuk.net