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**1. COBIS Annual Conference 2010**

***Schools for Life: Providing learning beyond the curriculum***

**15-17 May, London**

**DEADLINE APPROACHING - *Booking Deadline - March 5, 2010***

The booking deadline for the 2010 COBIS Annual Conference is nearly upon us! The conference includes a programme of high-profile speakers, a large exhibition of educational suppliers, and opportunities to network and share best practice in seminar/discussion sessions. This event, which is held at a beautiful central London venue, is open to heads, governors, and senior managers. Accommodation cannot be guaranteed for any bookings received after March 5th.



The conference will open with a forum for COBIS member and affiliate schools on Saturday May 15th at 4pm, followed by the AGM. The Welcome Reception (sponsored by WCBS) will start at 6:45pm, followed by dinner. Conference sessions run Sunday and Monday, finishing with the Annual Dinner (black tie) on Monday evening.



Visit [www.cobis.org.uk/annual-conference](http://www.cobis.org.uk/annual-conference) for full programme details and a booking form.

**2. COBIS accreditation**

Congratulations to the following schools that have recently been granted COBIS Accreditation:

British School of Bucharest, British School in the Netherlands (re-accreditation),  
Campion School, British School of Amsterdam (re-accreditation)

### 3. Prague COBIS Conference report

The Prague COBIS conference for teachers and leaders took place at the Prague British School this month. The conference was a great success with more than 200 delegates and exhibitors from more than 25 countries. Congratulations are due to John Bagust and his colleagues at the Prague British School for all of their hard work organizing this event. Many of this year's delegates have already marked the dates for the 2011 Prague conference in their diaries (17-18 February, 2011).



### 4. COBIS poetry competition - deadline approaching

COBIS invites submission of poems of up to 40 lines on the topic of *Home*. There are three categories based on age groups, and the competition is open to students of any nationality in full-time education at a COBIS Member or Affiliate school. Prizes have been generously donated by Galore Park Publishing, Red House International School Book Club, and TTS Group Ltd. For full details please visit:

[www.cobis.org.uk/cobis-student-poetry-competition/2010-cobis-student-poetry-competition-2.html](http://www.cobis.org.uk/cobis-student-poetry-competition/2010-cobis-student-poetry-competition-2.html)



### 5. Languages in COBIS schools

Thank you to everyone who responded to the COBIS survey about language teaching in schools. Full results will be circulated shortly. The responses show that at least 30 different languages are being offered in COBIS schools (23 languages offered within the curriculum; 16 languages offered at GCSE/A level/IB or equivalent; 22 languages offered as extra-curricular options). The most popular curricular languages are: French (28 schools), Spanish (20 schools), German (14 schools), Italian (9 schools), and Chinese/Mandarin (7 schools). Local language is mandatory in 68% of responding schools.

### 6. Pupils 'should start secondary school in June'

Reports published by Bristol University and the Quartet Community Foundation have suggested that 11-year-olds should start secondary school three months early (in June rather than September) to ease the trauma of the step up from primary education. Pupils should be given extra time to adjust to the more intimidating atmosphere of large schools, older pupils, mixed timetables and specialist subject classes.

### 7. Facebook campaign over 'unfair' exam

More than 3,000 A-level students have signed up for a Facebook campaign to protest about their biology exam. They claim the paper set by the AQA exam board failed to test what they learnt as part of their syllabus. The exam board has since made a concession to the protesters by issuing a statement that the marking would "take account" of complaints.

## 8. Students would pay more for some degrees

Government-commissioned research has shown that University students would be willing to pay higher tuition fees for degree courses that prepare them to enter the highest-earning jobs and careers. This sort of system already exists in Australia, where students can pay twice as much for a degree in law, accountancy and economics as for a course in education, nursing or statistics.

## 9. Safeguarding training and CRB checks

Representatives from COBIS had an interesting meeting last month with the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP). COBIS would like to remind schools of the importance of carrying out checks on all new members of staff and volunteers (CRB or local equivalents as appropriate). COBIS is able to do Criminal Record Bureau checks for member and affiliate schools. For more information on this service please email [admin@cobis.org.uk](mailto:admin@cobis.org.uk). COBIS will also be running an advanced Child Protection training course in London on Saturday May 15th, 2010, ahead of the annual conference. For a booking form please email [executive.director@cobis.org.uk](mailto:executive.director@cobis.org.uk).

## 10. New supporting member

COBIS welcomes a new supporting member: TUI Student Division ([www.tui-student.com](http://www.tui-student.com)).

*"The TUI Student Division is a collection of 21 independently managed companies providing worldwide school and student travel. Specialists in Ski Trips, Sports Tours, Curriculum Visits, Cultural Tours, Expeditions and Activity Courses; each element can be tailored to meet your schools requirements. The TUI Student Division Partnership allows schools to book all of their residential trips through one supplier. The provision of a Relationship Manager will ease the administrative burden and partnership schools receive substantial financial rewards.*

### ***Do you know how much your school spends on residential trips each year?***

*TUI Student Division will provide a free of charge audit of your residential trips and present the benefits of adapting a collective purchasing strategy for these trips across the school.*

*For example, you could use £9,450 to contribute to your Hardship or Development Fund.*

Trips per year	No. of students	Cost per student	Total annual spend	School Financial Reward
15	30	£700	£315,000	£9,450

*For more information please contact [lisa.lilley@tui-student.com](mailto:lisa.lilley@tui-student.com)"*

## 11. ISI Regulatory Requirement Corner - Health and safety on educational visits

Information is extracted from the ISI Handbook, The Regulatory Requirements, Dec. 2009.

"The school shall draw up and implement effectively a written policy to safeguard and promote the health and safety of pupils on activities outside the school which has regard to DCSF Guidance *Health and Safety of Pupils on Educational Visits*; **[Include educational visits policy]**.

***Health and safety on activities outside school [Regulation 3.(2)(c)]***. Having regard to DCSF Guidance *Health and Safety of Pupils on Educational Visits* (HASPEV) involves appropriate mention of the ten important areas below, as applicable to the school in question and the types of activities envisaged. The essential elements which usually apply are (a) responsibilities for visits, including pupils' behaviour; (b) planning visits, including risk assessments and first aid; (c) supervision, including ratios and vetting checks (for example, CRB checks for volunteers on overnight stays); (d) preparing pupils, including special and medical needs; (e) communicating with parents; (f) planning transport; (g) insurance; (h) types of visit; (i) visits abroad (if applicable); (j) emergency procedures, including contact details and permission for emergency medical treatment if the parents cannot be contacted."

## 12. News from the schools

Students from the **British School of Guangzhou** took part in a number of activities, assemblies, and performances to celebrate Chinese New Year. Year 5 put on a fantastic kung fu performance, morning assemblies offered a range of song and dance for the children and parents to enjoy, and years 6-9 showed off their musical and dancing skills.



Year 9 and 10 students from **English International School, Prague** took part in a successful debate exchange with an international school in Luxembourg. The students had less than 48 hours to research, write speeches and take part in a formal debate on the motion 'This house believes that environmental protection is more important than economic growth.'

## 13. International schools continue to grow despite global recession

(feature by Anne Keeling, ISC Research Ltd)

*The impact of the global downturn dominated the international schools market last year. Rumours of international schools falling apart were the subject of sensationalist media speculation. On a more realistic note, several associations undertook surveys to assess enrolment expectations and most schools put contingency plans in place.*

*So where did the market end up? The latest figures published by ISC Research, the organisation that analyses developments in the international schools market, indicate that the market as a whole did significantly better than expected. This time last year there were 5,116 English-medium international schools worldwide. There are now 5,515 resulting in a growth in 2009 - even with the global economic downturn - of 7.2% (compared to an 11% average growth rate over each of the three previous years).*

*From all the evidence gathered by ISC Research at the start of the 2009-2010 school year, 51% of international schools have maintained their enrolment numbers; many of these being full although some have reduced waiting lists. Only 9% of international schools have fewer students and 41% have actually increased their enrolment figures.*

*Contradicting some media claims, many new school projects have gone ahead, despite the financial crisis. "There are, of course, exceptions," says Nick Brummitt, Managing Director of ISC Research. "Some new projects have been delayed and some schools have suffered, mainly those heavily dependent on expatriate parents working for companies that downsized or closed operations. But such schools are relatively few. Most international schools today cater largely to wealthy local families with 70-80% of international schools students now from local families, a complete reversal over the last 20 years."*

*So did the market implode during the recession? "Absolutely not," says Nick Brummitt. "The market has been extraordinarily resilient and the demand for places looks unstoppable. A large number of new international schools are in the process of opening with most growth in Asia including India, China, Hong Kong, South Korea, Singapore, Vietnam, Qatar & Abu Dhabi and interestingly also in Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and the Maldives. ISC Research is confident that the market will not only remain strong but will continue to enjoy significant growth. By 2015 we predict the number of English-medium International Schools will reach 7,800 and increase to 11,000 by 2020."*

*ISC Research maps the world's international schools and analyses developments in the international schools market. For more information go to [www.iscresearch.com](http://www.iscresearch.com)*

Any other news from schools or features should be sent by email to: [executive.director@cobis.org.uk](mailto:executive.director@cobis.org.uk)

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