

Dear Colleagues

With the end of term approaching I thought that I should provide an update of our activities over the past term, as we have not actually met all together since the A.G.M. in March. With the political landscape changing quite dramatically it has been a busy and, hopefully, productive few months.

### **Steering Committee**

Following the A.G.M. the five elected members of the Committee are:

David Barrs	Anglo-European School
Martina Hedges	Broadgreen International School
James Kazi	Charterhouse School
Ian MacNaughton	Colchester Sixth Form College
Sandra Morton	Impington Village College

Co-opted Members:

Sue Austin	King Fahad Academy
Peter Fidczuk	Dartford Grammar School
Katy Ricks	Sevenoaks School

To ensure full representation of all sectors involved in the I.B., we have also co-opted:

David James	Wellington College
Huw Jones	London International School
Paul Luxmore	Dane Court Grammar School
Sue Phillips	Swansea College
Roz Trudgon	Kingshurst Academy

This also means that we now have representatives for all three I.B. programmes.

### **Developing the work of the Association**

There are now sixteen associations across the region (IBAEM), and for the first time, a meeting was held in Geneva in June for the Chairs so that we could share experiences to help take our work forward. IBSCA is, by far, the largest of the associations and the one with the most developed infrastructure. We were also the first to sign a license agreement with IB. However, as I pointed out in my presentation, that makes it easier for us as we have more members, (that is to say we have more people and a wide range of experience on which to draw), but it also makes it more difficult as having more members, we have to meet a wider range of needs and interests among our member schools.

I was also very fortunate to have had meetings on the previous day, one with Adrian Kearney , the Regional Director, and another with Adrian and several of his colleagues, (The Route des Morillons is no longer just an address on an exam envelope!). They allowed me to set the agenda and we focussed on issues that are key to the situation in the U.K. As a result, we have agreed that approaches will be made to senior politicians. (I had already written to Michael Gove and sent him the Briefing Paper we discussed with Sir Robert Balchin). Michael Gove has also been invited to speak at the Regional Conference.

### **Future Plans**

To ensure a more coherent approach to our work colleagues on the Steering Committee will take on specific roles and, where appropriate, will liaise directly with IB colleagues from the region. We also hope this will be greatly enhanced by the improved website. This work has been done by David Fowkes and supported by Sue Austin in particular, to whom we owe huge thanks. The roles are as follows:

Martina Hedges	Treasurer
Sue Austin	Website Manager
Peter Fidczuk	MYP and Area Network Co-ordination (in liaison with Malcolm Nicholson)
James Kazi	Support for schools new to the Diploma (in liaison with Tim Nettleton – recently appointed in Geneva to oversee publicity).
David Barrs	Support for IBCC (in liaison with Chris Mannix)
Sandra Morton	Support for the IB nationally (in liaison with Adrian Kearney and Karen Turner, IB Accreditation Specialist)

We do recognise that an area that we have not really got a grip on is Membership, and that to do justice to this we really need to employ someone, on a part-time basis, who has this as their specific focus. This will enable us, for example, to offer support for schools who are newly authorised. The post will be advertised at the start of the autumn term.

Apart from the two Conferences this year, there have been several smaller but very successful events to provide information for schools interested in the MYP and those seeking to take their schools forward. We are indebted to Peter Fidczuk for this and to the partnership we have had with Julian Metcalfe from the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust. As a result we now have a thriving MYP network and a similar network for PYP schools is now ready to be launched in October.

All of this is in addition to the work undertaken by Nick Lee, our University Liaison Officer. You can read the details of this in his update. Thanks to Keith Allen, our Training Officer, we now have an extensive range of IBSCA Workshops, all on a 'break even' basis which is why we are able to offer such

competitive rates. The feedback shows that the high quality of the provision has been appreciated by the delegates.

Finally, I am sure that we are all looking forward to the Regional Conference in Liverpool at the end of September. It promises to be an excellent event with some outstanding speakers. I do hope that despite difficulties with school budgets and issues for some with "Rarely Cover" arrangements many of you will be able to attend and I look forward to meeting you there.

It just remains for me to wish you a happy and relaxing summer break and I do hope that your IB results were what you were hoping for.

Best wishes,

Sandra Morton  
Chair