

To join **BAISIS** 

To join **BSA** 

# Supporting international students conference

Wednesday, March **06**, 2024

09:30 – 16:30

**Audience:**

SMT/SLT, Marketing, Admissions, EAL staff, Pastoral/boarding staff,  
teaching staff supporting international students,  
Agents & Guardians (UK and international members)



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**SESSION 1**

**09:30 – 10:15**    **Welcome and keynote - When neurodivergence is taboo: understanding culture stigma, and navigating a way forward with acceptance, awareness and harmony**

- **Chair**
  - Beth Waddington, Director, BAISIS and Programmes Director, BSA Group
- **Speaker**
  - Hazel Lim, Founder, Chinese Autism

*Our keynote speaker will share her lived experience, facing exclusion and isolation from her community when introducing her autistic son, and her professional focus on autism and neurodivergence. Using this experience, the session will highlight why some cultures, the Chinese community in particular, are uncomfortable with neurodiversity and additional needs and provide suggestions for supporting parents in their own journey around their child's needs.*

**10:15 – 10:30**    **Break**

**SESSION 2**

**10:30 – 11:30**    **International trends**

- **Chair**
  - David Walker, Director, BSA
- **Speakers**
  - Simon Nathan, Deputy Chief Executive and Head of Policy, ISC
  - Dr Fiona Rogers, Deputy CEO, COBIS
  - Caroline Nixon, International Director, BSA Group

*This session will hear from a selection of sector experts who will update delegates on the current international trends around recruitment, attitude towards boarding and British Education, competitive markets and the impact of franchising as we look towards future recruitment and marketing plans.*

**11:30 – 11:45**    **Break**

**SESSION 3**

**11:45 – 12:30**    **Effective induction of international students**

- **Chair**
  - Beth Waddington, Director, BAISIS and Programmes Director, BSA Group
- **Speaker**
  - Elena Hesse, Principal, Abbey College Cambridge

*A successful introduction to your school is key to the settling in of all students. For international students, schools need to not only support the settling in process within the school, but also within British culture. Families put a great deal of trust in their chosen school and a successful induction should start from the point of enquiry and finish with the students helping welcome future students as a valued part of the school community. This session will hear from an experienced educator and leader on the practical considerations and recommendations to ensure your induction process for international students is robust and child-focused.*

**12:30 – 13:30**    **Lunch**

**SESSION 4**

**13:30 – 14:30**    **Good governance of international students' provision**

- **Chair**
  - David Walker, Director, BSA
- **Speakers**
  - Kate Hollyer, Legal Director, BSA Group
  - Simon Leyshon, Director, Llesion Education

*Having international students in your school comes with specific requirements and obligations as well as enriching your boarding and whole-school community. Our panel of experts will share recommendations around good governance of the provision for international students and highlight relevant sponsor requirements and other statutory guidance.*

**14:30 – 14:45**    **Break**

**SESSION 5**

**14:45 – 15:30**    **Welcoming language diversity as a whole school**

- **Chair**
  - Beth Waddington, Director, BAISIS and Programmes Director, BSA Group
- **Speakers**
  - Caroline Scott, Founder, Across Cultures and author
  - Emma Finnerty, Deputy Head of Boarding, DLD College London
  - Aga Gurbin, Head of Faculty, EAL and MFL, d'Overbroecks
  - Sara Thomas, Assistant Head of School (Wellbeing), ACS Cobham International

*This session will focus on the benefits and challenges of how we can embrace diversity to value learners' home languages as well as to celebrate that language diversity across the school. Whether you have a few or multiple language speaking learners in your school, this session will provide lots of practical ideas to use immediately.*

**15:30 – 15:45**    **Break**

**SESSION 6**

**15:45 – 16:30**    **Brand Britain: engaging with prospective families**

- **Chair**
  - Caroline Nixon, International and Membership Director, BSA Group
- **Speakers**
  - John Zhang, Managing Director, Connexcel, BSA agent and guardian

*It's a small world, and as we see international travel increase again after the COVID pandemic, we have the opportunity to promote the excellence of Britain for international students to prospective families. Increased travel does, of course, also mean increased competition from other international education markets: this session will discuss the key interest areas for prospective families and how British schools can engage with prospective families to promote their school and opportunities.*

**16:30**    **Conference close**



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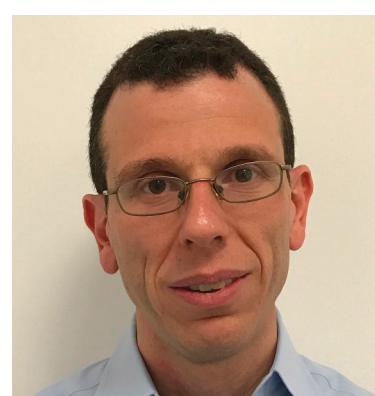
**Beth Waddington**  
Director, BAISIS and  
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