ONE-DAY CONFERENCE

VENUE: BLACKROCK COLLEGE, DUBLIN, IRELAND

boarding conference

Our annual conference brings together schools from across the island of Ireland and aims to share updates on current boarding issues from key members of the BSA team and external expert speakers, as well as giving networking opportunities with other colleagues working in boarding. The conference is suitable for anyone in a boarding role, and traditionally has a good mix of both school leaders and other boarding practitioners.

Audience

Head, Deputy Head, Bursar, Registrar, Head of Boarding, Marketing, Admissions, Medical, Head of EAL, DoS, Pastoral staff.

19 NOVEMBER 09:00-16:30



Irish boarding conference

Thursday, November 19 2024

09:00 – 09:20 Registration and welcome refreshments

SESSION

09:20 - 09:30 Welcome

- David Walker, Director, BSA and Executive Director, Boarding, BSA Group
- Yvonne Markey, Principal, Blackrock College

09:30 - 10:00 Research: results of the BSA boarding sector survey across the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland

• David Walker, Director, BSA and Executive Director, Boarding, BSA Group

This session will cover the latest trends, issues, and opportunities in Irish boarding.

SESSION

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10:00 - 10:45 A - Global marketing and position of Ireland / Northern Ireland

• Beth Hudson, Executive Director Specialist Services and Director, BAISIS, BSA Group

In the current climate, Ireland and Northern Ireland have a good opportunity to showcase the opportunities boarding can afford to the international market, demonstrating close links with Europe, strong academic credentials, English learning and, often, more affordable fees. This session will discuss strategies to boost your school globally, working with agents and differentiating approaches for different markets.

B – Financial Stress

• John Murphie, COO, ISBA

This session will cover guidance on monitoring your financial performance indicators and external macro-economic trends.

10:45 - 11:15 Break

SESSION

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11:15 - 12:15 Supporting the Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing of Boarders

- Dr Colin Gorman, Clinical Psychologist, Ulster University & CEO, Pneuma Healthcare
- Caroline Millar, Assistant Psychologist, Pneuma Healthcare
- Rene Droomer, Associate Research Psychologist, Pneuma Healthcare
- Sophy McFarlane, Associate Psychologist, Pneuma Healthcare

This session will look at how schools can embed meaningful strategies and processes to promote positive mental health, including teaching emotional skills, low-intensity interventions, considering neurodiversity, and the relationship between digital and mental health.

SESSION

4

12:15 – 13:00 A – Blue sky thinking – networking session around Irish and Northern Irish boarding issues

- David Walker, Director, BSA and Executive Director, Boarding, BSA Group
- Tiernan Mealiffe, Director of Boarding, Blackrock College

This session will allow the opportunity to discuss current issues in Irish and Northern Irish boarding.

B – Boarding bursars' forum

- **John Murphie**, COO, ISBA
- Kathleen Sweeney, Scotland and NI & Republic of Ireland Regional Secretary, Independent Schools' Bursars Association (ISBA)

This forum will discuss the UK VAT decisions have different implications and possible impact across our NI and Irish delegates.

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch and tour of the school

SESSION

14:30 – 15:15 Child protection and safeguarding: headlines for 2024-25 practice

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• Dale Wilkins, Executive Director, Scotland/Wales and Accredited/Compliance

This session will consider the current trends in safeguarding and child protection, including opportunities for colleagues to share their own thoughts about best practice. There will also be essential guidance updates as appropriate.

15:15 - 15:30 Break

SESSION

15:30 - 16:00 BSA and ISBA Q&A

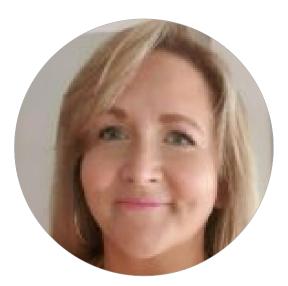
- David Walker, Director, BSA and Executive Director, Boarding, BSA Group
- John Murphie, COO, ISBA
- Dale Wilkins, Executive Director, Scotland/Wales and Accredited/Compliance

This session provides delegates with the opportunity to ask current questions about boarding, care standards, leadership, financial management and any other relevant issues to conference representatives from BSA and ISBA.

16:00 – 16:15 Closing remarks and conference close



David Walker
Executive Director
Boarding and
Director BSA/TIOB



Yvonne Markey
Principal
Blackrock College



Beth Hudson
Executive Director Specialist
Services and Director
BAISIS, BSA Group



Kathleen Sweeney
Scotland and NI & Republic of
Ireland Regional Secretary
Independent Schools' Bursars
Association (ISBA)



John Murphie COO Independent Schools' Bursars Association



Dr Colin GormanClinical Psychologist
Ulster University & CEO
Pneuma Healthcare



Caroline Millar
Assistant Psychologist
Pneuma Healthcare



Rene Droomer
Associate Research
Psychologist
Pneuma Healthcare



Sophy McFarlane Associate Psychologist Pneuma Healthcare



Dale Wilkins
Executive Director
Scotland/Wales and
Accredited/Compliance

Upcoming conferences

November 25, 2024: Exploring identity and intersectionality (online)

November 27, 2024: Annual Safeguarding Conference (online)

December 03, 2024: Prep Boarding Conference (Berkshire)

January 28-29, 2025: Annual Boarding Conference (Nottingham)

March 05, 2025: Supporting international students (online)

April 29, 2025: Safeguarding international students (online)

May 06-07, 2025: Annual Conference for Heads (York)

July 07, 2025: Health and wellbeing conference (online)

View more at **boarding.org.uk/conferences**



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