



## BSM's Weekly Newsletter 3 October 2009

### News From The Principal

**Swine Flu** – Last week we had no confirmed and two suspected cases of swine flu, both in class 11LS. Both students have returned to school today. However, we have two more suspected cases today, both in class 11LS. I'll keep you informed of developments on a daily basis as we go through this week. In the meantime, we continue to work with the British Embassy, Ministry of Health, World Health Organisation (WHO), Ministry of Education and Medident in order to ensure that we receive the latest information and take appropriate action.

Please keep your children at home if you suspect that they might have a flu-like illness and also keep their brothers and sisters at home. This is very important. You will then need to follow medical advice, especially if your children fall into a high risk category. **The Flu Hotlines for Oman are 92466422 and 92466642.** Please contact Mrs Cath Healy, our nurse, if your doctor suspects that your child may have swine flu. You can contact her on 99432613.

Good personal hygiene, especially hand washing and respiratory etiquette, are crucial to preventing the spread of the virus. Therefore, please reinforce this with your children. We stress this at school. Please see the two posters attached with this newsletter.

The school's position is to continue with school life as normal. I will contact you if this needs to change.

You can keep up-to-date with progress and advice by monitoring the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office's link: <http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travelling-and-living-overseas/swine-flu> and/or the WHO's website: [www.who.int](http://www.who.int).

**Outward Bound** – Last Monday students from Year 12 attended Outward Bound Oman and developed their leadership and interpersonal skills while taking part in challenging adventurous activities on top of Jebel Al Akhdar. They had a challenging but enjoyable time.



**Double House Points** – Last week I awarded double house points to the following primary children for exceeding their teachers' expectations: Chris Jackson (2R), Crea Butlin (3E), Beth Ebbutt (3E), Bijin Chakraborty (6B) and Wei-Han Chan (6B) for English, and James Phipps (4D) for humanities. Congratulations and well done everyone!

**The Singing Kettle** – If your children like a good wholesome sing-along with some funny jokes thrown in, then you might want to take them to the Al Bustan Palace Hotel on Thursday 15 October to enjoy The Singing Kettle. Call 95555699 for further details. The age limit is under 11 and adults. Please note that the school will not be selling tickets.



**Blue and Silver Masquerade Ball** – There are only 6 Thursdays to go until it's our Blue and Silver Masquerade (BSM) Ball, so please contact Karen Casmore on [headbsm1@britishschool.edu.om](mailto:headbsm1@britishschool.edu.om) for your tickets. This event which will be for around 400 at the British Ambassador's Residence on Thursday 12 November. It promises to be an enjoyable evening.

**Primary Library** – Thank you to the large number of parents who have helped to back the new books in our library. This positive response has been greatly appreciated.

## **News From The Board of Governors**

**Improving Our School's Facilities** – Last week the Board met with members from founder and subscribing companies to discuss ideas for funding improvements to our school's facilities. Discussions will be ongoing and decisions reached only after we have gathered more views from staff and parents. Therefore, please try to attend our meeting at 6.30pm on Tuesday 27 October for all parents who are interested in improving our school's facilities and funding the changes.

**School Improvement Committee Meeting** – Last Wednesday evening the members of the governors' School Improvement Committee (Chairman Dominic Myers, PDO Governor Chris Holmes and Parent Governor Julie Towler) met with the Principal in order to consider some aspects of school improvement. The Committee approved a revision of an existing document which sets out the differences between the roles and responsibilities of the Board and the Principal.

The Committee also approved, subject to some minor changes, the School Profile for academic year 2008/09. This is a document which covers the school's achievements and provision during 2008/09 and areas for improvement for 2009/10. A one page summary will be sent all parents this week and the main document will be placed onto our school's website for those who would like to see more detail.


The Committee approved a revised School Development Plan, which the Principal had redrafted to align with Ofsted's latest Section 5 inspection framework (which took effect this September).

All three documents will be submitted to the full Board of Governors for consideration for approval on 18 October.

Finally, the Committee received from the Principal the first release of the school's achievement, attainment and progress data for 2009. This will be reviewed by committee members before being scrutinised by the school's external school improvement partner (Ofsted inspector and consultant Head of School Improvement for Buckinghamshire and Gloucestershire Local Authorities in England) who will fly out from England to join the Chairman and Vice Chairman in early November in order to conduct the Principal's first performance management session for this academic year.

**Parent Governors** – Four parents are standing for election. They are, in no particular order, Mrs Julie Towler, Mrs Sarah Whitelaw, Mr Nick Smith and Dr Anindya Choudhury. The details of each candidate and those for voting were sent to you last Tuesday. The ballot box is in our main reception. If you did not receive the voting details then please contact Mrs Karen Casemore at [headbsm1@britishschool.edu.om](mailto:headbsm1@britishschool.edu.om) and she will send you a pack.

**Governor Profiles** – Each week we shall profile a member of the Board of Governors. This week it's Mr Giles Cunningham Chief Executive Officer of The Zubair Coporation, Oman.

	<p><b>Name:</b></p> <p><b>Governor Type:</b></p> <p><b>Occupation:</b></p> <p><b>Responsibilities:</b></p> <p><b>Committees:</b></p>	<p><b>Giles Cunningham</b></p> <p><b>Subscribing Company</b></p> <p><b>CEO of The Zubair Corporation</b></p> <p><b>Head of Marketing and Premises</b></p> <p><b>Marketing, Premises, Pupil Discipline and Appeals Committee</b></p>
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**Personal Details: Giles Cunningham**

Giles started work with Kleinwort Benson before moving to Lloyds Banking Group where he spent 17 years which included roles in Brazil and the UAE. In January 2008 Giles moved to Oman to join The Zubair Corporation as Chief Executive Officer.

Giles is a mathematics graduate, an Associate of the Chartered Institute of Bankers, holds an MBA and is an active Harvard Business School alumnus. Giles is married with 3 children - Harley (18), Giles Junior (4) and Oliver (2). Giles Junior attends BSM and Oliver will follow in 2010. Giles' wife, Joanna, also works at BSM as an assistant teacher in Nursery. Giles speaks "excellent" Portuguese, according to Joanna, who is from Rio de Janeiro! When not working, Giles likes to spend time with his family and keep fit. He is a keen reader of leadership theory and autobiographies.

**And Last But Certainly Not Least...**

**Safeguarding & Absence From School** – Please contact us before 8.00am on everyday that your children are absent from school. This ensures that you and we know exactly where they are and why. Thank you.

**Low Attendance, Low Performance** – That's the conclusion reached by Ofsted after inspecting thousands of schools in the UK. Please try to keep your child's attendance levels up but follow the advice on swine flu first. Thank you.

**Tag Your Bags** – Please remember to tag your school bags and name your lunch boxes.

**Clunk-Click Every Trip** – Please make your children wear their seat belts.

**Crawling Speed, Phones Down and Engines Off** – Please carefully crawl through our car parks, don't use your phone whilst driving, and turn your engines off when leaving your car.

**Cream-up and Hats On** – Please protect your child's skin with sun block and a wide brimmed hat. Thank you for your co-operation.

Have a good week!

Steve Howland  
Principal.