



## BSM's Weekly Newsletter 26 September 2009

### News From The Principal

**Swine Flu** – We currently have no new confirmed or suspected cases of swine flu. I'll keep you informed of developments on a daily basis. 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).

**Back From London's West End!** – Yesterday morning 18 Senior School students returned from London's West End after a very successful and enjoyable drama and dance trip. They had a marvelous time and learnt about drama, dance and theatre operations from some of the best professionals in the business. The students who benefitted were:



Amy Morton (11CB), Amy Sharkey (11CB), Caitlin Anderson (9JW), Carl Oprinsen (10KW), Christina Chaaya (13TW), Daniel Pearson (9TE), Emily Dixon (13TW), Frederique Vossen (10KW), Kardelen Ozsoy (8CHL), Katie Blake (13DA), Lavanya Chowdhury (8JRO), Maaike Sickler (10KW), Melanie Boyd (12JR), Nicholas Howland (9TE), Olivia Yates (10KW), Rachel Rosie (11LS), Safya Megnin (8JRO) and Sarah Millward (9JW).

**After School Activities** – Begin this week and end on Wednesday 9 December.

**Outward Bound** – That’s where Year 12 are heading this week. They’ll be learning to improve their leadership and interpersonal skills whilst taking part in challenging adventurous activities on top of a mountain – all good character building stuff. Watch out for the photos and report in next week’s newsletter.

**Promoting Children’s Health Through Physical Activity** – We all know that developing healthy activity patterns as a child, and particularly as a teenager, usually leads to healthy activity patterns throughout adult life. At school we try to promote a healthy lifestyle and part of our promotion will now include drawing to your attention some of the clubs and societies in Muscat that your children can join in order to enjoy taking part in regular physical activity.

This week I would like to feature **Muscat Road Runners** which is setting up a Junior Division for the coming winter season. After a recent committee meeting the organisers are keen to encourage young members to their club. The Junior Section will be open to runners, male and female, who are in Years 7-11 at BSM or equivalent grades at the other international schools. The youths are welcome to attend regular Tuesday evening club nights and also the weekly Sunday social runs. Throughout the winter Muscat Road Runners holds a series of nine races from which points are scored depending on finishing position; trophies are awarded at end of the season. The runs start at 5km, work up to a half marathon and then back down to a final 5km race. The committee has decided, that due to the heat in Oman, they will have a Junior Division for the series of races but the maximum distance will be 10km. So when the seniors are running 16km and half marathon races, the event organiser will make a shorter route for the juniors. Further information is available from [www.muscatroadrunners.com](http://www.muscatroadrunners.com) the posters in school or Mr Grey, Head of PE, at school.

If you have a club or society that encourages children to take part in sports or regular physical activity and you would like me to feature it in our weekly newsletter, then please send me a suitable press release type statement that I can publish. Thank you in anticipation of your response.


**Blue and Silver Masquerade Ball** – There are only 7 Thursdays to go until it’s our Blue and Silver Masquerade (BSM) Ball, so please contact Karen Casemore 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.

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

**Facilities Meeting** – Another reminder that at 6.30pm on Tuesday 27 October we shall be holding a meeting for all parents who are interested in our plans for improving our school facilities and how we intend to fund the changes. We will outline our plans and listen to your views before taking any action.

**Parent Governors** – This week our Bursar, Mr Hardy will be contacting you and explaining the next steps in the process for electing parent governors onto the Board.

**Governor Profiles** – Each week we shall profile a member of the Board of Governors. This week it’s our Treasurer, Mr Ewan Stirling, Chief Executive Officer of HSBC, Oman.

	Name:	Ewan Stirling
	Governor Type:	Subscribing Company
	Occupation:	Chief Executive Officer of HSBC, Oman
	Responsibilities:	Treasurer
	Committees:	Head of Finance Heads of Schools’ Performance Management Statements

**Personal Details:**, Ewan Stirling, Treasurer, Board of Governors

Chief Executive of HSBC in Oman and Dad to Olivia (in Reception at school) and Findlay (starting September 2010), Ewan is the Treasurer of the British School. Ewan was formerly Treasurer to the International Community School in Jordan and has served with HSBC in Bahrain, Dubai, Jordan, Qatar and Hong Kong. Ewan is also a founder member of Outward Bound in Oman. He is always happy to discuss any aspect of the school with parents and supporters.

## **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.