

# **COBISEC CONFERENCE**

## **KING'S COLLEGE,** **MADRID**

**THEME: Post fourteen education with specific emphasis on quality management and the post sixteen curriculum**

### **Speakers**

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October**

#### **Day 1**

**9.45 Welcome and Introduction**

**Session 1 10.00 – 11.00**

**The Changing Curriculum: Implications and Trends ( Dr Peter Mason)**

An examination of the trends in post fourteen education with specific emphasis on post sixteen education. With changes to the A Level system timetabled for introduction in September 2008, this session will give an up to date insight into government thinking and likely changes to the post sixteen curriculum as the UK moves into a new educational era.

**11.0 – 11.30 Break Refreshments and Opportunity to meet with exhibitors**

**Session 2 11.30 – 12.15**

**Tools for Differentiation and Fair Admissions (Tony Charlton )**

In the light of ever larger numbers of students applying to university and many obtaining the top grades in post sixteen examinations just how are universities differentiating between candidates? This session looks at the increasing number of entrance tests, the use of AS & A2 unit mark grades, the increasing awareness of the International Baccalaureate and other differentiators that are beginning to be used by the more popular universities.

**12.15 – 12.30 Break**

**Session 3     12.30 – 1.15**

**Preparing Students for Oxbridge (Nicolas Plater )**

In 2006, 30 000 applicants applied to Oxbridge with at least three A grades predicted at A Level. 5000 candidates were rejected at the application stage who then went on to achieve straight A's. UK private schools are developing programmes to prepare the most able for entrance into Oxbridge, Medicine and Veterinary Science whilst the government is paying for state pupils to attend Oxbridge preparation programmes. This session looks at current good practice in the UK.

**1.15 – 1.30     Break and Opportunity to meet with exhibitors**

**1.30 - 2.45     Buffet Lunch**

**Session 4     2.45 – 3.30**

**Factors for successful applications             ( Tony Charlton )**

Student profiles, expectations, electronic applications and the changing demands expected from personal statements and references are covered in the final session. Session to close with a review of good practice in reference writing

**3.30 – 4.00     Break: Refreshments and Opportunity to meet with exhibitors**

**Session 5     4.00 – 5.00**

**Workshops:** The issues raised throughout the day will be discussed in workshops. Delegates will be asked to join one of the three workshops below. Notes will be taken and disseminated to all delegates.

**Workshop 1: Managing Curriculum Change**

A discussion on the imminent changes to the A Level curriculum and how this may affect the structure of the curriculum. The discussion will also consider the IB as an alternative course. The objective of this workshop will be to provide insight into possible management strategies and pertinent issues for international schools

**Workshop 2: Differentiation in practice**

A session aimed at identifying how schools can ensure that their students can compete when it comes to university entrance. The discussion will identify examples of good practice and include factors such as value added, tracking of students and support programs. The objective will be to offer practical strategies for schools when considering the structure of their academic and pastoral provision

### **Workshop 3: Developing students to be independent learners**

This workshop will look at strategies to encourage students to be independent learners. Identified as a key skill by competitive universities for many courses students applying for medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, law etc. Experiences from existing programmes and those under development will be drawn. The aim is to share good practice and ideas.

#### **9.00 'Black Tie Dinner'**

## **Saturday 21st October**

### **Day 2**

#### **10.00 Introduction to the day and issues arising from the Workshop Sessions**

##### **Session 1     10.15 – 11.15**

#### **Measuring achievement in the secondary school ( Sue Holt )**

The inspection framework of OFSTED and ISI is placing greater emphasis on measuring progress and achievement. This session looks at the concept of value added and the various different measures which can be adopted to chart students progression and attainment. Pitfalls, good practice and using value added in an international environment will be covered

#### **11.15 – 11.45 Break: Refreshments and Opportunity to meet with exhibitors**

##### **Session 2     11.45 – 12.45**

#### **A Levels versus the International Baccalaureate ( Dr Philip Evans)**

An analysis of the two systems, implementation and identification of problems and solutions. An early opportunity to identify the coming decisions that will have to be dealt with over the next three years.

#### **12.45 – 1.00 Plenary and Vote of Thanks**