

Following the results of the our survey, please find below clarifications / information on the status of BIS

LEGAL STATUS OF BIS

On its creation in 1988, the school chose to be a non-profit making "association 1901". Parents were on the Board, but the fact that most of them were either very mobile or living abroad, virtually no French nor "locals" at the time were able to attend meetings and therefore the running of the school was difficult. Later on, the need to change premises and then sign a bank loan led us to look for a status more adapted to our plans. After much research, we opted to be a cooperative (limited liability) : the staff, already very involved in the success of the teaching aspect of the school, then became "associates" in the general running of BIS, with the principle of "one associate = one vote".

FRENCH MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (EDUCATION NATIONALE) (1)

Since 1999, BIS is under a "**contrat simple**" with the French Ministry of "Education Nationale". This was obtained after 5 years of operation and inspection, recognizing its unique role in Bordeaux. This status guarantees parents that the school teaches the requirements in French and Mathematics of the French official programme and that the school is regularly inspected. As a counterpart, the State contributes towards the salary of one staff – for one class. For three years, we have tried to ask for a second post to be subsidized but up to now this has not been possible due to the political-economical climate.

BIS now envisages a change in status with the French State : "contrat d'association" which will also allow local authorities to contribute towards some of the running costs (ie equipment). But this may mean that the school must follow the French national curriculum more strictly – like all French schools – which may make it impossible to carry on with its truly bilingual scheme !

Please be assured that the school is engaged in a constant process of finding the best possible ways to increase our income, in order to ensure continuity of our original schemes and its uniqueness, while keeping school fees as low as possible.

EDUCATION NATIONALE (2)

As part of our contract with the French State, Judith Huguenin has been "inspected" this term. The "Inspecteur d'Académie" has reported extremely positively about the work that Judith has done. He remarked that: "Mme Huguenin has an excellent relation with the pupils, displaying authority and talent for teaching with a range of language abilities. Attentive and warm, Mme Huguenin realizes the potential of each individual in the group". It was also noted that "Mme Huguenin has an incontestably positive and bright influence on the department.....(and that) she is a guarantee of quality teaching in the school". The Inspector added that Judith has put in place all the ingredients needed to make sure that the department prospers in the future. We are all extremely proud and happy that Judith's work has been formally recognized and all her achievements appreciated by the Académie (a large extract of the report will soon be published on our web site).

CURRICULUM BOOKLETS

The booklets for Secondary students are just being given out or sent. The ones for Primary/Early Learning are finished in their English version. They will be translated over the holiday and handed to parents at the beginning of next term. May I attract your attention to the fact that these booklets present the curriculum especially designed to suit BIS and its students, thanks to the combined efforts of all staff during the last two years.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT FETE DE NOËL

A wonderful evening, to which all contributed with dedication and enthusiasm, and which ended by a great song "made in BIS" - worth keeping in BIS's book of records – and by a superb buffet. As all "good practices" have to be encouraged and repeated (according to our Accreditation charter /officers) we will make sure that the school has use of the concert hall again in 2010, and with the same team of course ! (some photos will soon be published on our web site and in our new blog).

START OF THE NEW YEAR / 2010

A very busy start of term, with the "mock exams" period for most Secondary students, and for staff, the final preparation of our Accreditation documents which have to be sent by mid-February.

A reminder that **Monday 4th January will be closed for professional development** for all staff (including office). Therefore classes will start again on Tuesday 5th January (9.00 for Primary; 10.00 for Middle School and Secondary).

The school office will be closed from 22 December in the evening until 5th January .

On behalf of the whole school, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Christine Cussac
Director
17.12.09