

## **TBAP 16-19 Free School – Update to the TBAP Trust Board**

**International Baccalaureate Authorization:** We have recently become a candidate school for the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program, which is a highly regarded alternative qualification to A-Levels. The IB DP is a significantly broader programme of study, with an emphasis on developing critical thinking skills and as such fits the vision and purpose of our planned school. The IBO have agreed a timeline that will allow us to become authorised by September 2016, contingent on a number of conditions. This represents a significantly faster process than the usual 2-3 years generally required by IBO. As part of authorisation, we will be working alongside Ian Andain, who is Head of the IB Global Heads Council. Ian has worked in the UK state sector, in challenging schools, and is also on the governing body of his local pupil referral unit, so we are confident that he will understand our context. Our IBO appointed consultant is Sue Austin, who has developed IB DP programmes in both independent and state UK schools.

**Staffing:** A team of 11 teachers, drawn from BAPA, BCAPA and LAPA are working as part of the post-16 development group, to prepare the curriculum for the new school, in line with IB requirements. All but four members of the development team have now completed IB approved teaching. The remaining workshop sessions for this term are at St Clares, Oxford, on the 16 – 18<sup>th</sup> December. Theatre training has been re-scheduled for Amy Smith. We have also welcomed Marcin Radizul to the development team to prepare to deliver Mathematics, in response to an increased understanding of UK University entry requirements for a range of subjects. Marcin will complete his training in the New year. Staff continue to meet on a regular basis to work on the development of the new curriculum. The first staff development day is scheduled for Monday **4<sup>th</sup> January 2016**, where we will be working on planning and curriculum development. An IB-trained consultant is booked to join us on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, where we will be looking at approaches to teaching and learning within the IB DP program.

Gemma Dixon continues in her role as the interim Head of School until May/June 2016.

**Admissions' Policy/Criteria:** The Department for Education has approved our admissions policy. We are now working alongside four boroughs, Wandsworth, Hounslow, Brent and Ealing to identify groups of young people who might benefit from a place at the school. We have received a very positive reception to the offer so far

**Commissioning:** The **commissioning** process continues to evolve. Post-16 provision for AP learners is a novel pathway, and as such, local boroughs do not have established routes and funding which can be readily identified. We are working with local boroughs to identify possible solutions, and have raised this matter directly with the DfE. Moreover, we have identified additional draw-down funds available to us from the EfA which has allowed us in turn to reduce the required top-up for local boroughs

**Marketing:** A series of marketing strategies are planned, including the provision of open afternoons where young people can participate in taster lessons, the use of a short 'Day in the Life' video and a microsite. The logo for the new school has been created after a workshop involving Year 11 learners from BAPA.

**CIAG** MC and GD attended a UCAS preparation conference last month. We have recently been invited to participate in a feedback session for 'London Ambitions', as London wide careers-education portal. We are also delivering links with Kings College, Kent University and Canterbury Christchurch University in order to support us in preparing our young people for university

**Site** Hammersmith and Fulham have agreed the use of the Gresswell Street building (currently occupied by HAFAD) as an interim site. The EFA have agreed that the TBAP Trust will oversee renovations of the buildings, and their technical advisor has been out to make a site visit. Plans are in place to ensure that the building will be refreshed and ready to welcome our first learners in September 2016

**DfE Milestones** The DfE considers us to be on track to meet our milestones in good time to allow for signing of our funding agreement by early April. Upcoming key deadlines include submission of an education brief and key policies to our education adviser, and completion of our public consultation early in 2016