



The International Choice in Private Education

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British School of Boston - British American School of Charlotte - British School of Chicago - British School of Houston - British School of Washington

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New Headteacher appointed at British School of Houston

Washington, DC - British Schools of America is delighted to announce the appointment of Alison Norris as Headteacher of The British School of Houston from September 2005. Alison, who is the current Deputy Head, will take over from David Rose who is returning to the UK.

Dennis Hallahane, CEO of British Schools of America, in welcoming Alison to her new position said that "It is particularly pleasing that the candidate who successfully navigated a rigorous selection process is someone who already has experience of British Schools of America in general and the British School of Houston in particular."

More than 50 applicants from around the world responded to the advertisement for a new Headteacher in Houston and the field was a strong one. Detailed criteria that governed the selection of candidates had been established before the process began, focusing on candidates' abilities to lead further development of world-class learning in the school working with students, parents and staff, and to communicate the high quality of learning at the British School to new and existing parents and other interested stakeholders.

The 50+ original applicants were narrowed down to a long-list of 13 candidates, all of whom took part in a challenging initial interview process. Most of these 13 applicants had qualities which would recommend them for Headship or that explained why they already occupied headship positions around the world. At the end of the interview process, though, three candidates stood out and they were invited to the second stage of the selection process in London. Alison was one of those three; the other two were both headteachers, one of a large UK secondary school and one who had significant experience of headship in international schools around the world.

At the final interview stage, all candidates were interviewed twice by a panel comprising Dennis Hallahane, CEO, British Schools of America; Sheree Speakman, Chief Operating Officer, BSA; Martin Skelton, Head of Learning, BSA; and Graham Reeves, Director, Fieldwork Education Services. The first interview focused on the ability to lead and develop high-quality learning at BSH; the second focused on the candidates' management abilities and their fit with the philosophy of British Schools of America. In addition, all candidates had to make two presentations to different audiences, the first of which was focused on learning and the second on marketing.

Following the two day-interview process, it was the unanimous view of the appointment panel that Alison Norris was the candidate best qualified to exemplify and develop the core vision of British Schools of America.

The continuity that Alison will give to BSH is valuable and together with her skills and experience will enable the school to continue to develop successfully. I am sure that you will join with me in offering her your congratulations and support.

Martin Skelton





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Head of Learning
British Schools of America