



BRIAN HOWES, M.A. (Oxon.)

Born 1934 in Croydon, England; educated at Dulwich College and St. Edmund Hall, Oxford.

After university, Brian Howes taught modern languages (mainly German) up to university scholarship level at two major, long-established independent secondary schools in England. He also spent three years as bursar of a girls' school founded in 1941 steadying its finances to enable it to become an educational trust.

In 1968 he was appointed head of the Hamburg International School, internationalised the school's curriculum and was largely responsible for negotiating a major annual subsidy from the Hamburg Senate. The City authorities also contributed a site for new school premises and half the cost of building them; Brian worked with the architect on the specification for and design of the new buildings.

In 1971 he was invited to become Head of St. George's English School, Rome to improve all aspects of the school, steady its finances and enable the school to purchase its site. He reorganised and documented the curriculum, matched staffing to the curriculum, introduced an annual week of special events for all students to have experience well beyond the classroom, and restored the finances to proper order in the face of impending bankruptcy. The official gazette announced the completed purchase in late 1975.

In January 1976 he entered the English national schools inspectorate (HMI) as Modern Linguist and specialist in the academic and financial management of schools and colleges, working at all levels of ability and age-ranges. All HMI were required to comment on curriculum in any of their assigned schools and on building projects which affected those schools. Apart from these specialisms, his assignments included secondment for 18 months to the Ministry's Planning Unit; national responsibility for Educational Disadvantage and community education, assessment of arrangements for gifted students; international comparisons with education in Germany; personnel matters throughout the Inspectorate; and leadership of a team of 55 HMI working across the Southern Division of England.

From October 1989, as Head of Croydon's Advisory and Inspection Services, he led much work on curriculum planning and documentation (some of which subsequently seems to have influenced national thinking). Other initiatives included developments on Special Needs, special provision for gifted students, a very broad range of in-service training and other support to teachers and schools, personnel issues including staff appraisal as one of six pilot schemes nationally, and close cooperation with the Social Services Department on education for the under-8's. He also developed plans for a bi-lingual school.

Since April 1995 Brian Howes has been an independent educational consultant working mainly for ECIS and CIS. He has chaired or co-chaired eight Visiting Accreditation Teams and has been involved at some stage in reporting on every main section in the Guidelines and on most subjects in the curriculum. He has also carried out several shorter Visits to check schools' responses to Accreditation Reports and Recommendations.

Trained as a facilitator under the Governance through Partnership programme, Brian Howes has conducted workshops for Governing Bodies and Heads in their schools. Other work on behalf of ECIS or CIS has included helping several schools to appoint a new Head (or their first) and, occasionally, helping Heads select specialist staff either on site or through preliminary interview in London.

Schools' best use of their accommodation has often been a subject of discussion during advisory visits and this is an area of particular expertise: Brian Howes wrote the ECIS booklet on planning school buildings. Up to 2005 he had, additionally, set up all aspects of four new schools and carried out three one-week Advisory Inspections with Recommendations for Action by the school. A new school, which he visited and advised on behalf of the British Council, received similar advice.

As a separate invitation, he worked with a major partnership of architects and the former Chief Architect of the Department of Education in helping a Hong Kong partnership plan a major new secondary school. He was also deeply involved in turning the Mercedes-Benz School in Pune from a German-speaking school solely for the children of company employees into a full international school.

Apart from the current work in Bangalore, Brian has, since 2005, been CIS's main representative in advising the Dubai Education Council on all aspects of setting up a series of world-class international schools, from initial business plan through to opening and beyond.