

JOHN WRAY

Principal South Island School

The opportunity to work with outstanding students and staff, in an excellent school, in a vibrant international multicultural city was too good to miss. It has always been on my life plan – in so far as one has life plans, to teach in another country at some stage in my professional career. I can hardly think of a week when

I haven't scanned the pages of the TES looking at the overseas posts that were available but for one reason or another the timing was never quite right; either I had moved on to another post or my wife Gill – who is a trained nurse and latterly a Practice Manager had begun a new phase in her professional life. When the right time emerged I found myself having been Headteacher of a community comprehensive school in the south west of the UK for four years. In that time with a good team, we had managed to become a Beacon school, specialist Language College, part of the UK's first virtual education action zone and most importantly, seen many of our students reaching extremely high levels of achievement in many areas of school life. I am proud of many things at my previous school but our modest moves to develop its international dimension; including all students following at least two languages to exam level (many early), our extensive programme of student and teacher study visits and exchanges (including to Zambia in Africa) and our use of video conferencing to extend learning opportunities rank highly.

The attraction of the far east – it was a definite decision to move outside of the increasingly euro-american monoculture, was the chance to live and work in a society where my own values and norms could be challenged and developed and where education was not as constrained by national government as it certainly is in the UK.

PROFILE



I am tremendously excited about working with the team at South Island and within the ESF. The people I have met, are by the mere fact that they are here in Hong Kong, high achievers and creative thinkers and my experience has borne that out. Teaching, wherever it occurs in the world, is a challenging and demanding profession but where teams can work together in a supportive and stimulating environment with outstanding young people, the rewards can be enormous.

The challenge for us all is to ensure that we fully prepare our students for the international lives and lifestyles that they will increasingly lead in the twenty first century. Such is the calibre of young people in ESF schools that the mission 'preparing tomorrows leaders today' is not only apt but an awesome responsibility. The need to provide an outstanding education in all its aspects, is crucial not only for the students themselves, their families and their immediate communities but for their countries, wherever in the world they might be.

As I write this in June 2001 I am very much looking forward to joining the SIS and ESF teams and playing my part in further developing the excellence that already exists.

John Wray



ESF SCHOOL FEES 2001-2002

The Government provides the E.S.F. with a grant for each pupil equal to the cost of a local school place. It is necessary, however, to charge fees in E.S.F. schools to meet the additional costs of providing an English style curriculum.

Tuition fees for 2001-2002 are (*provisionally*):

secondary : HK\$ 78,600

primary : HK\$ 47,300

This is the first increase in fees since 1998.