

### **Dr Stephen TOMMIS**



Dr Stephen Tommis is the founding Executive Director of the Hong Kong Academy for Gifted Education (HKAGE), a post he took up in February 2008. The HKAGE is an initiative to ensure that appropriate provision is made for teachers, parents as well as all gifted students across Hong Kong. Stephen is a graduate of the University of Dundee (MA First Class Honours), Jesus College, Oxford where he was awarded the D Phil degree and the Institute of Education, London University where he took a PGCE.

After a spell in business working as an antique map dealer, he decided that education was his true vocation and so moved to the south west of England to be a teacher at Sherborne School, an independent secondary school. After one year he was promoted to Head of Department and subsequently to Undermaster. From there he went to The King's School, Gloucester, as Deputy Head and after three years learning the job, was appointed to be Headmaster of Abbotsholme School in Staffordshire, completing a 23 year stint of direct involvement with education. Between 2003-8 he was the Director of The National Association for Gifted Education (NAGC) in the UK where he led campaigns to get parents' needs heard in government and schools.

### **Mr Joel NAINIE**



Joel Nainie trained as an English Literature Teacher in Melbourne, Australia where he completed a masters in Asian Studies at Monash University. He taught in Australia and Brunei and then spent a decade in Hong Kong teaching at King George V School, much of that time as the Gifted and Talented Co-ordinator. He completed the Train the Trainer Program in Gifted Education, Government of South Australia, December 2007 and subsequently established Gifted Leadership Services Limited, a private company with an office in Hong Kong, the business of which is delivering Leadership conferences to gifted secondary students from around the world. He has delivered several academic papers on his

leadership model at various gifted conferences around the world and regularly runs training programs for staff, particularly on teaching strategy for the gifted. In 2009, he moved to Muscat, Oman where he accepted a post as Head of Year 12 and a Teacher of English and Theory of Knowledge at The Sultan's School. He subsequently returned to Hong Kong where he is now working for The Independent Schools Foundation Academy as the Gifted and Talented Co-ordinator and Head of Year 8.

### **Mr James SMITH**



James Smith is currently the Learning Technologies Coordinator at King George V School, Hong Kong. A graduate and former choral scholar of St John's College, Oxford, James has lived in Hong Kong for four years and been a teacher for six. Following his time at Oxford (where he graduated with a first-class degree in English Literature) he qualified as a teacher and worked in a comprehensive school in the UK before moving to Hong Kong. His current role comprises the management of a large and very successful 1:1 laptop programme and responsibilities for the strategic development of Learning Technologies. A passionate advocate of the role of technologies in learning, James works with teachers from his school, Hong Kong and around the world to make learning more effective and engaging for students. He has presented at numerous conferences and symposiums and is currently overseeing a software project for the English Schools Foundation which is in use by over 10,000 students.

When he's not doing that, he is a keen singer and musician. Formerly the MD of 'Out Of The Blue', an internationally-acclaimed group of a cappella singers, he organised and promoted shows and tours in nine countries and has performed for a number of international figures including Nelson Mandela, Bill Clinton and the Norwegian Royal Family. For the last four years, James has sung the national anthems of the finalists of the Hong Kong Sevens Rugby Tournament in front of crowds of 40,000.

## Ms Jenny QUINTON



Jenny Quinton was born in the UK and has lived on Lantau Island in Hong Kong for 22 years.

She became passionate about the environment a few years after she came to live here when her house nearly burnt down because of a hill-fire caused by grave-sweeping festival visitors. After that she became concerned about many environmental problems and sought ways to seek local solutions to global problems and joined several community groups supporting environmental issues. She became a member of Green Lantau Association, the Living Island Movement and the Lantau Buffalo Association.

Jenny is a qualified teacher and worked with the English Schools Foundation for nine years. She still chairs the Environmental Group of ESF despite leaving Kennedy School in 2006 to set up 'Ark Eden'.

Ark Eden Foundation is a registered Hong Kong charity that aims to cultivate permaculture principles in Hong Kong, as part of a global movement, through educational programs and demonstration of sustainable, resilient, locally based systems of living. About 5000 people come through Ark Eden programmes a year

Jenny has two children, who are adept at fighting hill-fires and lives with a menagerie of pets, including a pig, in a secluded rural valley in Lantau.

### **Mr Andrew PARKINSON**



Andrew Parkinson is a Counsellor, Coach, and Teacher. He has studied Psychology, Education, NLP, Ericksonian Hypnotherapy, Experiential and Constructivist approaches to Psychotherapy, and has a Masters in Counselling. Mr. Parkinson has been working to Develop Human Potential for almost 20 years and has been providing pro bono counselling to Refugees and Asylum Seekers since August, 2008. Mr. Parkinson is the Collegewide Counsellor for Renaissance College Hong Kong and is on the Board of Directors as Coordinator for the Counselling Service for Vision First, an NGO dedicated to assisting refugees in Hong Kong.

### **Mr Samuel BUCHANAN**



Samuel Buchanan is a bilingual (Putonghua & English) Programs Coordinator and students mentor in the Secondary Division of The Independent Schools Foundation Academy, Hong Kong. He has Cornell MBA (Leadership, International Strategic Management, and Entrepreneurship) and Harvard Bachelor of Arts (East Asian Studies – China) degrees, plus substantial leadership, general management, and internal/external consulting experience in government, entrepreneurial, and Fortune 500 company contexts around the world. He is a retired US Navy Commander (Lieutenant Colonel), served as a key aide to national and regional executives in multinational manufacturing and financial services corporations, and was vice president of three entrepreneurial start-ups in the automotive, lighting, and financial services sectors, respectively. Outside work, regularly engages in life coaching, pastoral care, various community services, music performances (bass guitar), and tennis.