



**Twiggy Cheuk Ki
CHAN**

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Founder and Director, Boaz International Education Institute (Boaz)

Twiggy is the Founder and Director of Boaz International Education Institute (Boaz), a special education centre in Hong Kong. She founded Boaz because she successfully overcame dyslexia and hopes no other students will go through the same difficulties that she encountered. Boaz provides Innovative Dyslexia Training to students under mainstream local education system. Instead of drilling kids with what they are weak at, Boaz’s specially designed curriculum adopts a strength-based approach that combines visual-kinesthetic learning strategies with the local syllabus. In the past 4 years, Boaz has collaborated with the University of Hong Kong, the Education Bureau and over 50 well-known schools and organizations, and has successfully served more than 800 students and families. Under the leadership of Twiggy, Boaz’s social impact and the success of its business model are widely recognized by being awarded the HSBC Youth Business Award 2016 – Gold Award by HSBC and HKFYG, Entrepreneur Day – Outstanding Start-up Award 2016 by HKTDC and HKFYG and Innovative Entrepreneur Award 2017 by Junior Chamber International Hong Kong.

Apart from teachers’ training, she is also frequently invited to speak at seminars organized by universities, NGOs and schools to share her experience in overcoming dyslexia and running a start-up with social innovation with teachers, parents and young entrepreneurs.

Twiggy’s passion in education has gained her wide media coverage and she was awarded 2017 Hong Kong Professional Elite Ladies Selection Award by Junior Chamber International Hong Kong. What drives Miss Chan forward is her belief that “if children do not learn the way we teach, we teach the way they learn.”



**Sophia CHAN-
COMBRINK**

Sophia CHAN-COMBRINK

Head of Education & Society, British Council Hong Kong

Sophia joined the British Council in 2009 after an extensive career in project management and consulting in the private and public sectors in Canada. She is currently the Head of Education and Society of the British Council in Hong Kong. Her responsibilities include providing strategic leadership to the education work of the East Asia region as well as in Hong Kong. Whilst much of her work revolves around higher education, she also oversees society programmes that work with schools and communities in Hong Kong in collaboration with trusted partners. Prior to joining the British Council, she was the Director of Education at a Canadian environmental not-for-profit organization. Other career highlights include working for the United Nations’ Dams and Development Unit in Cape Town, South Africa and Environment Canada, the Canadian government’s ministry of the environment.



Kai Ming CHENG

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Emeritus Professor, University of Hong Kong

Kai Ming Cheng is Emeritus Professor at the University of Hong Kong. He was Dean of Education, Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Senior Advisor to the Vice-Chancellor at the University. He is Honorary Director of Education Policy Unit at the Faculty of Education. He received his PhD from the UCL London Institute of Education. He taught at the Harvard Graduate School of Education as Visiting Professor 1996-2007. He lectures at the National Academy of Education Administration, China, and SKOLKOVO, Russia. He is among the national group “China Education 30”. He is among the initiators of “Education 2.1”, an advocate for better education in Hong Kong.



Matthew DONLEY

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Secondary Courses Coordinator in Teaching Centre and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Lead, British Council Hong Kong

Matthew has been teaching English as a foreign language since 2005 and has worked in Indonesia, Latvia, Poland, Oman and Hong Kong, primarily with secondary-school students and adult learners. He currently coordinates British Council’s secondary courses, creating lesson materials, guiding and assessing teachers’ professional development and assisting in the planning of curricula. He holds a first degree and a Diploma and Certificate in teaching English to adults, as well as specialised qualifications in teaching English to young learners.

As the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Lead, Matthew helps manage British Council Hong Kong’s work on inclusion and ensures compliance with global and regional internal documentation requirements while coordinating diversity-related events and initiatives within the organisation and in the wider Hong Kong community alongside the Leadership Team and the EDI Working Group.



Anita F ELLIS

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Founder, Learning Support Services Association

Anita founded Learning Support Services Association in 2012 because of her strong belief in inclusive education. She recognises the importance of learning support in supporting teachers and students with SEN in the process of inclusive education. Anita started her interest in learning support in 2004 when she studied the work of teaching assistants ‘TAs’ after obtaining a MEd (SEN) in England. She wrote about the role of TAs in international schools in Hong Kong, Japan and Singapore in her thesis. Anita returned to Hong Kong in 2009. She was invited to submit a research proposal by the Hong Kong Institute of Education investigating the role of TAs in schools in Hong Kong. She then became a member of the research team on TA projects. Her research work has given insights on the role of TAs in Hong Kong. She sees the need for setting up a platform for connecting community experts to add value to the role of TAs and more so a systematic approach in deploying learning support resources so as to effectively support the needs of students.



Stuart GUNN

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Community Inclusive Participation Manager, Hong Kong Rugby Union

Stuart grew up in the UK and has played rugby since the age of 11. He first started playing when he joined secondary school and continued playing through university, before moving to Hong Kong in 2008 to work for the Hong Kong Rugby Union. He has been involved with delivering the HKRU’s Rugby English Active Learning (REAL) Programme since 2012. Part of his job has included working with children from Kindergarten, Primary and Secondary schools, as well as Universities. He has found that a sporting environment helps students to feel more confident to express themselves, which allows them the chance to try speaking English, without the fear of making mistakes or being laughed at. Rugby in particular is a team sport that requires a large amount of verbal communication. Therefore it provides an ideal platform to encourage students to talk to each other in an active and enjoyable environment.



Doreen HO

Doreen HO

Committee member, EDiversity Ltd

Doreen is a mother of three boys. After working in the education field for almost 15 years, she chose to become a full-time mother to make sure all her boys would grow up to be nice people with a kind heart for others. Since 2012, she has been making a loud voice in media, crying for a stop in the P.3 TSA (Territory-wide Systematic Assessment). She also strives her best to promote parent-child reading in the pre-school years through column contribution in newspaper and magazines as well as talks and workshops in the community. Doreen is a core committee member at EDiversity, a charity formed by parents in 2014. With a firm belief that every child is different, we aim at promoting more educational choices in Hong Kong to suit the diverse needs of children.



Pat Pik Lam HUANG

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Teacher, Family Partners School by Autism Children Foundation

Pat worked as an English teacher in two local secondary schools in Hong Kong. Having worked for 5 years, in 2011 she took one year off from work in Hong Kong to learn about education systems in three countries (the UK, Finland and Sri Lanka) with a mission to find out what other countries do in catering for learner diversity. She visited 17 schools and 34 classrooms to get herself exposed to different educational settings. After returning to Hong Kong with inspirations, she worked on designing a global education project which aims to give students a wider understanding of the world and a unique learning experience. The project has successfully been funded by the government for two years and continues for its sixth years.

She is currently teaching students with Autism Spectrum Disorders at Family Partners School established by Autism Children Foundation. She taught at the University of Hong Kong as a part-time lecturer for the PGDE program. She has also been invited as a guest speaker to share her teaching experience and insights at various tertiary institutions in Hong Kong.



Tritia SAMANIEGO

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Director, Participant & Alumni Impact – Asia Pacific, Teach For All

Tritia works with Teach For All partner organizations across the Asia Pacific region to accelerate impact in classrooms and cultivate lifelong leadership toward expanded opportunity for children. Tritia began her career as a Special Education teacher in Houston, Texas. Her experience includes coaching 1st and 2nd year teachers of special needs classrooms as well as policy development and program management serving non-traditional student populations including incarcerated and emancipated foster care youth and individuals recovering from mental health episodes. She is a graduate of the University of California - Los Angeles.



**Professor Kenneth
Kuen Fung SIN**

Professor Kenneth Kuen Fung SIN

Director, Centre for Special Educational Needs and Inclusive Education, The Education University of Hong Kong

Professor Kenneth Sin is the Director of the Centre for Special Educational Needs and Inclusive Education and the Professor in the Department of Special Education and Counselling at The Education University of Hong Kong in Hong Kong. His expertise and research lie in the area of supporting students with special educational needs and professional development in inclusion. He has great consultancy experience in many local research projects as well as the training work for teachers teaching children with disabilities in Mainland China and Macau. He also takes part in many community activities, in relation to special needs and inclusion. He was invited to be the school council members of some special schools, members in some task groups for giftedness, inclusion, special needs and child welfare in Education Bureau, Curriculum Development Institute, Hong Kong Examination Assessment and Authority and Social Welfare Department. He is also appointed as the executive members, committee members or chairs in many NGOs for serving kids with special educational needs, persons with visual impairment, hearing impairment, intellectual disabilities, autism and behavioural difficulties. He is leading a number of research funded by GRF for special needs and projects for school based support in inclusive schools, teacher empowerment in BEd programs and special needs training in China.



Sally Wai Yan WAN

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Professional Consultant in Department of Curriculum and Instruction, Chinese University of Hong Kong

Sally received her Ed.D. in lifelong education from the University of Nottingham. She has published peer-reviewed articles in international journals such as *Asia-Pacific Journal of Teacher Education*, *Teachers and Teaching*, *Educational Management Administration and Leadership*, *Curriculum Journal*, *School Leadership and Management*, *International Journal of Leadership in Education*, and so on. Her key research interests include curriculum innovation and development, differentiated instruction, teacher education and development, as well as educational leadership.



Siân WILLIAMS

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Educational and Leadership Consultant, British Council, UK

Siân Williams worked for ten years as a teacher, head of department and head of year in inner London secondary schools before joining a local authority in south London as a senior education officer. In this role she led a variety of programmes for children and young people focused on inclusion, social and emotional learning, bullying and managing conflict.

Siân became a freelance educational adviser, facilitator and trainer in 2010. Since then she has been an education adviser for Learning Away, a national programme carrying out action research into school residentials in the UK; she currently leads on the programme’s continuing professional development strategy.

Since 2015 Siân has been a facilitator for the British Council Connecting Classrooms programme in Malawi. She specialises in training teachers and school leaders in the Core Skills, Leadership and Inclusive Pedagogies courses. Over the past two years Siân has hugely enjoyed training over 500 teachers and school leaders from across Malawi and Zambia. She has introduced staff to the thinking, skills and tools needed to prepare their students, through the Core Skills, to contribute positively to society and be successful in a global economy.

Siân is very proud that Malawi was one of the first countries to introduce the Connecting Classrooms Inclusive Pedagogies module, which she co-facilitated. Its impact was explored through interviews with a variety of course participants. These interviews showed fundamental changes to the mindset of teachers towards students with a wide variety of additional needs, which in some cases led to students’ lives being transformed.