

## Roddy Drummond, Deputy Head of Mission British Embassy Riyadh

This summer another Scot arrived in the British Embassy, the new Deputy Head of Mission Roddy Drummond, coming from London with his wife Yasmin.

Roddy is a Middle East specialist, who studied Arabic at SOAS and the University of Jordan, after reading Modern History at Edinburgh University prior to joining the Foreign Office. He has spent almost half his FCO career in the Middle East, most recently in Qatar as Head of Mission from 2007-8. Before that he served as Deputy Head of Mission in Syria, and before that in Jordan. His first experience of the region was in Algeria.

Outside the Middle East Roddy has worked in London, Johannesburg and Brussels. From London he has covered policies and programmes in South



East Asia, the Balkans, West Africa and the Middle East. In Johannesburg he focused on trade and investment promotion, black empowerment programmes and offset. And in Brussels he negotiated on Middle East affairs, the Common Foreign & Security Policy and the creation of the EU's peacekeeping capacity.

Outside the office, Roddy's interests include history, jazz, cooking and travel, desert driving and camping. He played and coached low-grade rugby until quite recently, and is proud to have helped develop Syrian rugby. He now enjoys walking, tennis and golf, and would like to learn to play the trumpet. Both he and Yasmin are keen scuba divers, and look forward to seeing what lies off the Saudi coasts. Yasmin teaches English as a foreign language, specialising in English for Academic Purposes. They have 5 grown-up children, who plan to visit occasionally from university or the world of work.

In the office in Riyadh, Roddy heads the Chancery team, dealing with political, economic, counter-terrorism and foreign policy issues. In addition he will lead on overall Embassy co-ordination and management issues, security, crisis response and consular affairs.

Roddy looks forward to getting to know the RGBB membership and engaging with the RGBB as part of our strategic relationship with the Kingdom.

## New Faces



Roddy Drummond

## New Principal at the British International School



To begin at the beginning: I was born in Scotland, but moved to England when I was just four. A five year stay in Manchester began my life-long interest in Manchester United. I was educated at the Royal Grammar School, Lancaster where I was a boarder for seven years. I read History at Keble College, Oxford, where I gained a first class honours degree and then completed a research degree there in early modern English History.

My teaching career has been spent entirely in the independent sector. I started at Manchester Grammar School, where I taught History and Politics, ran football teams and helped to coach the school's 1<sup>st</sup> XI cricket team when Mike Atherton, the future England cricket captain, was a part of it. After MGS, I was Head of History at Oakham School and then Head of Sixth Form at Newcastle – under – Lyme School. In 1990, I was appointed Headmaster of Cheadle Hulme School, a large, co-educational, 4-19 school in the South Manchester conurbation. After ten years there, I had my first experience of international education as Principal