



Dear Parents,

Week 9 already. This term is on wheels!

I have been inspired by a number of educational articles I have read recently and I force upon you my thoughts. Did you know that the word curriculum comes from the Latin meaning *a race* or *to proceed a long a course*. You would be forgiven to think that the curriculum is the at the center of all learning, a road map, and it is, in a way. However, the dry attainment of knowledge is not a precursor to success. Is it just content we need in order to be successful in life? We set students up for failure unless we go beyond the allocated curriculum content so that they have a deep and relevant experience that prepares them to be able to preserve and enhance life, their culture and the society around them.

At CIS we are endeavouring to make sure that we do not strive for just the dry attainment of knowledge that will only set students up for a world that will pass them by. The dynamic nature of what we do at CIS by embedding our High Performance Learning Framework (creating, meta thinking, linking, analysing, realising, empathy, agility, hardworking) along with interdisciplinary assignments and tasks allows our students to apply this knowledge. Please do not mis understand me though, content knowledge, speed of recall, accuracy is extremely important, however without the ability to apply it, nothing will be achieved.

When we enact the High Performance Learning Framework, along with interdisciplinary assignments, we also consider our Q's, and not just one. There are a number of Q's, 4 that stand out for example; IQ – Academic intelligence, EQ – Emotional intelligence, CQ – Cultural intelligence, SQ – Social Intelligence, are the top stand outs.

All these are what we juggle here at school in order to deliver a curriculum that serves us instead of driving us. We deliver our curriculum in order to appreciate that we are passionate about learning, we value questioning above answers, where creativity is cherished instead of regurgitation, where individuality is cherished above conformity, excellence above performance and a system that allows all within it not just succeed but to flourish.

One of my favourite quotes by Eric Hoffer;

*“In times of change, learners inherit the earth, while the learned find themselves beautifully equipped to deal with a world that no longer exists.”*

Certainly, we are in times of change!

In the coming weeks you will receive a number of surveys, one in particular is the termly survey from the GEMS School Support Centre. Each time this comes out I do try to explain how it works and in particular one question that asks you if we are doing a good job. It is on a scale of 1 – 10. Simply if you feel that we are **not doing a good job** then you will **rate us 8 and less**. If you feel that **we are doing a good job** then you **rate us 9 or above**.

Finally, I want to give a shout out to our teachers. The educational system will never be more than the teachers within it. The greater the respect teachers have from the community, the far more enlightened and culturally advanced the society is. It's not rocket science, look at the world around you, look at the societies within each country that perform well.

Thankyou teachers, for all that you do.

Sincerely,

Lachlan MacKinnon  
CEO/Principal