

26 November 2020

Dear Parents,

Whilst much of the world has come to a standstill we have continued as best we can to involve ourselves in the latest educational research projects to benefit our boys.

Over the last 18 months we have been working alongside the top 10 or so international boys' schools across the globe to look into the development of character education. These connections have also allowed us to share our experiences during lockdown. This [link](#) gives you a snapshot of some of the views from across the globe (please forgive my frowning!)

The main project is being overseen by CIRCLE - The Centre for Innovation, Research, Creativity and Leadership in Education. We are now at the stage where the research has been carried out and we are set to pilot The Pathway to Excellence programme. This course aspires to support students in building the adaptive expertise and self-efficacy to encounter success in how they learn, live, lead, and work on a personal journey of discovery. Should it prove successful we will endeavour to roll the programme out wider than the initial pilot group. We are also in a position to pilot a similar course but for teachers called The Way. This course supports the personal journey of discovery of teachers exploring their role in an education for character, competency and wellness that prepares learners to thrive in their world. Our aim in the new year is to pilot a similar course for parents based around character.

Looking beyond the RGS has been a key feature of our progress in recent years. Indeed, much of the good work on blended learning has stemmed from a visit to Finland a few years ago. This allowed us to see what is possible in terms of independent learning and we continue to trial ideas from that visit.

Last year we also took part in the largest revision census ever conducted - Revision 2020 census. This was conducted by the Exams Study Expert, William Wadsworth with the support of Washington University. The findings have been incredibly useful in supporting where we focus our attention. As mentioned in my letter a few weeks ago this has led to a significant focus on spaced retrieval and interleaving.

However, one of the most pleasing aspects to come out of the study was that of the 28,673 students and 43 schools (mostly independent) that took part the RGS came top in demonstrating resilience when the going got tough.

We are also in the early days of a relationship with a Learning Performance group affiliated with UCL, researching adolescent learning, mental health and self-perception. Work began during lockdown with a small group of Year 10 students and we are now reviewing the wider benefits of this project.

We want our students to be creative, innovative, resilient, kind and caring; resilience, indeed, shown effectively by our Year 12s as they #LearnAtHome. We need to be able to model these same attributes. We will never rest on our laurels and will continue to strive to provide the best all round education for our boys.

With kind regards

Alex Wallace
Deputy Headmaster