

FOREWORD BY PRINCIPAL

“Superhuman effort isn't worth a damn unless it achieves results.”

Ernest Shackleton

Whether you are joining Sri KDU® International School for the first time or you are returning for another year, I extend a warm welcome and wish everyone a rewarding and successful academic year 2017-2018. Congratulations to all teachers who were part of the team in the last academic year and who have contributed to another extremely successful year in terms of student achievement. We exceeded our very ambitious targets for student performance in IGCSE with 64% of A*/A grades and beat the target for Distinctions in ICE with 75% of students achieving this. The IBDP students also did exceptionally well and our average point score of 36 was higher than most of the other international schools in Malaysia as well as above the world average. Students in the primary school and at KS3 also made excellent progress. There were many individual successes, not just among the high flyers but for students who achieved even more than they thought possible or their CATS data suggested because of the dedication and skill of the teachers.

Another measure of success for our school is that we retain students, year on year, despite the opening of many other international schools; there is such demand for places, especially in our Primary School, that we have opened another new class in Year 3 for this academic year. Most year groups are full with children on the waiting list. Our primary school, SKIPS, is much smaller than the secondary but is a very important and successful part of the school. Most children progress from Year 6 to Year 7 which is quite unusual in an international context and very few students are withdrawn during their secondary education; this demonstrates the trust that the parents have in Sri KDU® International School.

We had some fantastic achievements in the last academic year including being the first school in Malaysia to achieve ISQM Gold! I suggest that everyone re-reads the report at the beginning of this academic year in order to feel proud again of what was written about the school but also to reflect upon what we need to do to sustain this Gold standard. This along with our 5-star grading from the MOE will help us to be attractive to parents in what continues to be a very competitive market.

We also gained entry to FOBISIA in the last academic year and I hope that we will really be able to take advantage of this membership even more this academic year for teachers and for students.

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”

Nelson Mandela

We also gained the prestigious Green Flag from WWF Malaysia for our Eco-School work in the last academic year. The students' commitment to environmental matters really is of major importance to our future world. This is one area where education can be a powerful weapon. The Green Flag award acknowledges that through the curriculum and daily processes we met all of the criteria to be judged as delivering the highest quality of environmental education and awareness raising in the school and the local community.

Early in the new academic year, the students will be choosing the charity which they would like their fund-raising to support. Part of the education at SKIS is to ensure that the students understand that not everyone is as fortunate as they are and through our charity work they have the opportunity to experience this first hand and to really make a difference to the lives of others.

“We must have perseverance and above all confidence in ourselves. We must believe that we are gifted for something.”

Marie Curie

I believe we have an excellent team of highly able teachers who can awaken joy in the students and develop them as learners rather than simply getting the best academic results. We need to make the most of everyone’s skills and knowledge by working together as a team, sharing good practice and working towards the same goals. We also need to apply Building Learning Power dispositions: Resilience, Reflectiveness, Resourcefulness and Reciprocity in our own work as teachers not just develop them in students. The goal that we are all working towards is the make the students and parents feel they attend “the best international school in the world”. I look forward to working with you in this academic year and to moving closer to this goal thanks to your contributions.

“The important thing in life is not to triumph but to compete.”

Pierre de Coubertin

**Maggie Rafee
September 2017**

1. General

1. Aims and Values

The KDU® Smart School Motto is:

Malaysian Hearts, Global Minds

Sri KDU® International School also lives by this motto as, although the school is international in curriculum, the majority of students who attend the school are Malaysian, thus it is important that we nurture their “Malaysian Hearts” as well as developing their “Global Minds” as befits an international approach. It is also important for all members of the SKIS community who are not Malaysian by nationality to understand what a “Malaysian Heart” is. We nurture the “Malaysian Heart” in many ways from playing the National Anthem in Assemblies to celebrating Malaysia Day with special assembly. All students study Bahasa Malaysia, the values of Malaysia through Moral Studies or the values of Islam through Islamic Studies as well as studying Malaysian History through special projects. The “global minds” of the students are developed through the international curriculum as well as through many different partnerships across the world, including through the People to People International Chapter.

The Sri KDU® International School Motto is:

Tomorrow’s Leaders Here and Now

The student body of SKIS is made up of those who will be the future leaders of Malaysia and internationally; the school was founded as part of the nation building for Malaysia. As such, it is essential that the leadership skills and character of our students is built up from Year 1- Year 13 so that they can be the type of leaders that Malaysia and the world needs to promote peace, stability and success for all. The leadership ethos of the school is founded upon the works of Stephen R Covey: “The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People” and “The Leader In Me”. All teachers employed in SKIS should read these seminal texts for their own development and so that they can ensure that they embed the seven habits into every aspect of their work. We embed the 7 Habits into the school through Assemblies and the PHSLE programme delivered in Form Time. There are also many opportunities for students to develop character and display leadership through the Prefect System, the House System, CCL Activities, student-led events such as The Paramount Championships and of course in their day-to-day learning through the active pedagogy we promote.

“Building Learning Power” – the pedagogy of SKIS

The golden thread of teaching and learning at SKIS is based on the work of Guy Claxton called “Building Learning Power” as we believe that it develops learners who can be successful future leaders and who will be able to cope with all the challenges of a changing world. Teachers at SKIS would benefit from reading “The Learning Powered School: Pioneering 21st Century Education” by Guy Claxton and “New Kinds of Smart” by Bill Lucas and Guy Claxton. However, in summary, the key concepts are that learning is “learnable” and intelligence is not fixed. The brain is described as a muscle that needs to be worked in order to be developed. Different learning muscles need to be exercised in different ways and at different times to create the most successful learning; these are named as the four “R”s: Resilience, Reflectiveness, Resourcefulness and Reciprocity. We strive to build the development of these through the pedagogy used in SKIS.

2. Vision and Mission

Vision:

“To be the best international school in the world”

Mission:

- To provide high quality education from Year 1-13 which leads to excellent academic outcomes and students who are effective learners
- To develop the whole child, whilst building character and enabling a wide range of skills and talents to shine through
- To develop leadership skills in students at all levels so that they can take up their future place as global leaders who lead with wisdom and compassion
- To give teachers opportunities to continue developing as professionals in order to deliver innovative and effective pedagogy

3. School Priorities for 2016-2017

The key priorities of the School Improvement Plan 2016-2017 are:

Achievement/Standards:

- To ensure all students in Y9, Y11, IBS meet their minimum target grades and 25% meet their aspirational grades.
- To ensure all subjects meet their IGCSE targets.
- To ensure that barriers to learning for individuals are overcome to enable under-achieving students in all year groups to meet their potential.

Teaching & Learning:

- To embed resilience (BLP) into all aspects of teaching and learning
- To ensure training, coaching, peer mentoring and teacher reflection has an impact on improving daily practice
- To promote student challenge and stretch through effective marking and feedback
- To promote the effective use of flipped learning/the flipped classroom through Google classrooms and other types of teaching methods

Students' Personal Development:

- To ensure that students are developing and recording leadership skills.
- To ensure that the rewards system is appropriate to and valued by KS4 students
- To ensure that parents feel they have more awareness of their child's co-curricular learning at SKIS

Leadership & Management:

- To build and sustain high performing subject teams
- To build and sustain high performing pastoral teams
- To achieve ISQM at Grade 1 Outstanding level