



***‘Teachers affect eternity,
they can never tell where their influence stops’***

“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 2020-2021. We had an enormous number of challenges to face last academic year; I was so proud of how all members of the SKIS community rose to those challenges, showing great resilience and optimism throughout.

Our IGCSE and IBDP graduates of 2020, more than anyone, suffered as a result of the school closures, as well as the cancellation of examinations. However, they did not allow anything to defeat them. Although they did not sit for the final examinations, they worked extremely hard throughout their courses and fully deserved the excellent results achieved. I would like to thank, once more, all of the Year 11 teachers for the great effort in ensuring the students had robust, accurate and fair predicted grades, which were used by CAIE, in the end, to award the final grades. In IGCSE, 71% of A*/A grades were achieved as well as 77% Distinctions in the International Certificate of Education (ICE) with 98% at Merit or above and a 100% pass rate. The IBDP students also did very well and our average point score of 37 was much higher than the world average. The IBO marked all Internal Assessments and based the final grade for IBDP students on these; some of our students, who we believe would have performed even better in the final examinations, still feel they have missed out on higher grades because of this. They had to manage a lot of stress before the IBO changed from an algorithm to the IAs, as the way to award final grades, with some also losing out on university offers, but they all remained positive and persevered until they achieved all that they could in terms of university places. There were joint valedictorians, Sasheena and Kelly, both of whom were KDU Scholarship students, who achieved 41 points each. 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, with almost 100% making the transition from Year 6 to Year 7. Retaining high student numbers, for the coming academic year, despite all of the academic and economic challenges caused by the global pandemic, is even more exceptional. This shows the success of our high quality remote learning, as well as the trust and confidence parents have in the school. With the support of the company, even parents who were hugely affected economically by the closure of businesses, from March to June 2020, have struggled to keep their children in SKIS.

We were very disappointed that our re-accreditation visit for ISQM, scheduled for March 2020, had to be postponed at the eleventh hour, due to travel restrictions, which prevented the inspection team from coming to Malaysia. However, we were ready and will be eagerly looking forward to the new visit planned for early February 2021. Our aim is to retain the Gold status which we were awarded in February 2017. This time we will have an additional aspect to the inspection as we wish to gain BSO (British Schools Overseas) accreditation. Our consistent high standards in academic outcomes, pastoral care and holistic education allow us to be very confident of being successful in both BSO and ISQM accreditation.

In February 2020, SKIS became part of the Prestigion Education group, which is the largest provider of K-12 education in Malaysia. Under the leadership of Dr Goh Chee Leong, the group CEO and Mr Eugene Yeoh, the CEO of Sri KDU Schools, we are now embarking on a new journey which has been titled "Project Everest". We have a new mission and vision to drive us forward, which is detailed elsewhere in this handbook. This is very important in an ever-changing world, with the educational landscape, globally as well as locally, needing to adapt. In this time of change, I will continue to ensure that SKIS continues to be the vibrant, successful and happy school that we all want it to be.

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

Nelson Mandela

We have continued to educate our students in areas that will inspire them to want to make a difference in the world. The students' commitment to environmental matters is demonstrated through our Eco-Schools programme throughout the year but especially through the annual Eco-Day. We have an Environmental Policy for all to follow and many areas of the curriculum as well as PSHLE teach about the importance of sustainability. This commitment to environmental awareness is recognised in our award of the WWF Green Flag which is the highest award within the global eco-schools programme.

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. Last academic year, the students raised money to support the school in Cambodia, which has been the focus of the IBDP students' service work for the last three years, even though, in 2020, we were unable to make a visit there in the usual way. Students also raised a substantial amount of money to for the Juara Turtle Project and for Hospis Malaysia (a charity for cancer patients). Our students are very committed to making a difference in the world and have lots of fun whilst trying to achieve this.

"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 The Learning Power Approach in our own work as teachers not just develop them in students. The goal that we are all working towards is to 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 2020