

Speech by Mr Mark Bromley, Head of Senior

Now is a good moment to review the year that is finishing at the British Schools. Academically 2018 was marked by the large number of students completing their IB Diploma, as the double generation completed the demanding two year programme. From years one to six, students working in class were able to demonstrate the attributes of the IB learner profile, which as an IB School we seek to emphasize.

A well rounded education does not just consist of what occurs in the classroom, but should present opportunities for students to develop their talents in a wide range of areas. The British Schools offers those opportunities, and reviewing these through the lens of the IB Learner Profile, we can see how some key attributes may be encouraged.

- The first attribute is **Balanced**. To be balanced means to achieve personal well-being for themselves and others by being able to recognize the need for moderation. To be successful on the sports field implies balance not in a physical way, but because you can only train and compete well if you have taken care of your other commitments. The success of our sports teams in 2018 demonstrates this attribute: Some examples include-
 - ✓ In rugby the U19 and U17 teams were national rugby champions and in the U15 we finished in first place and they won the Valentin Martinez international tournament.
 - ✓ In hockey we finished in third place in the Federation tournament at Under 18 and Under 16 level and at U13 level we won the “Liga de Deportes” cup.
 - ✓ In football the Under 16 team finished in 3rd place in the Liga Universitaria.

This is in addition to the many students who participated at national and international level in a wide range of sports- Congratulations to them for being balanced.

- The second attribute is **Caring**. This attribute recognizes empathy, compassion and respect towards the needs and feelings of others. They have a personal commitment to service, and act to make a positive difference to the lives of others and to the environment. Student participation and organization of community service projects such as Logros, Techo and Don Bosco exemplify this attribute.
- The **Communication** attribute describes an ability to express ideas and information confidently and creatively in more than one language. Our entries in the international St. Andrews Essay competition gained first and second prize in the Senior section and 3rd prize in the Junior category, demonstrating a strong ability to communicate in English
- The attribute of **Inquirer** means to be able to conduct research and investigation in an independent way. In November students in Y5 developed their Inquiry into Forensic Science as part of their Group 4 Project. In this they were able to investigate how science could be applied to solve practical problems and present this to the public.
- In these days of search engines, the attribute of **Knowledgeable** may seem marginalized, but to be knowledgeable implies mastery of that knowledge. Events such as the Physics and Chemistry Olympics allow students to show this mastery. This year we had 2 students in the finals of the Chemistry Olympics. In addition, one of our robotics team classified for the semi-finals of the UDELAR “Sumo Robótico” competition.

- **Open Mindedness** means being capable of seeing and appreciating viewpoints that are different to your own. The participation of over 50 students in 5 MUN Conferences allows students to show these attributes through their representation of different countries' positions on a wide range of issues.
- To be **Principled** requires people to act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness, justice and respect for the dignity of the individual, groups and communities. The receipt of the Fair Play award from the Liga Universitaria, by our under-16 football team in April was a great recognition of this attribute.
- **Reflection** is something we all do but is rarely recognized. A lot of formalized reflection went on in 2018 as a result of it becoming a requirement for all students completing their Extended Essay. The idea here is that reflection leads to improvement.
- To be a **Risk Taker** does not imply jumping off buildings, but to step outside your habitual boundaries. The performance of Grease to a total audience of over 10000 over a period of 10 days allowed many students to show their talent and take a risk, performing in front of the public.
- The attribute of **Thinker** requires people to exercise initiative in applying thinking skills critically and creatively to recognize and approach complex problems, and make reasoned, ethical decisions. The "Abogado por un día" programme at the University of Montevideo showed that our students can exemplify this attribute. This year 3 out of the top 4 teams in this competition came from the British Schools. Another example is our success in the Maths Olympics, and the award of top of the world in IGCSE Mathematics, which incidentally is regarded as the most difficult of all the GCSE syllabi is a great exemplification of thinking skills.

This has been a very brief thumbnail sketch of 2018. My apologies to the many achievements and events I have left out. In this sketch I have mentioned **10 attributes** that we seek to encourage in our students. For 2019 we will have a Rewards system that recognizes when a student exemplifies one of these attributes. This year I leave you all with one task that all of us can benefit from doing from time to time.

I would like to ask the question- Which 2 of these 10 attributes do you best demonstrate and which 2 do you think you could work on? If you have problems with this then you clearly need to work on being Reflective!

I would like to wish you all a safe and enjoyable holiday. Come back recharged and enthusiastic to grow in these ten areas.