



THE BRITISH SCHOOLS
Founded 1908



Speech delivered by Mr. Mark Rosevear

2020 is the 112th year of The British Schools, and we are delighted to see you back, and as well as welcoming all new students and staff.

The first things many of you will have noticed is that there has been a lot of construction over the summer. We have a beautiful campus, but we are always looking to improve our existing facilities, as well as add new ones. Some of these projects are completed, such as the entrances to the Senior and Junior schools or the modernising of the windows, well others such as improving the science labs in Senior have been started, and will continue in future years.

Years ago, people marked out the calendar year by the seasons, and by various festivals, many of them religious. In some ways our school year is the same. We have periods of holiday, trips, school plays and musicals, interhouse days, sports finals, PYP Exhibitions, international examinations and end of year assemblies. This school has a lot to offer, so make the most of every opportunity you have.

I have just one request. It was interesting to see a top rugby team in England with the words ‘be kind’ on their shirts instead of sponsors’ logos. It was very deliberate, and intended to make people think of others. Please be kind to everyone. Just occasionally, we can do or say something without thinking that can really upset someone else. Always think before you speak and act, and make sure that you act in a way that you would like other people to act towards to you.

We have talked before about the advantages and disadvantages of social networks and instant communication. We all enjoy the benefits, but we have to consider many factors when we read or hear about something online. It is very easy to post, and then walk away. This huge amount of information, or in some cases, disinformation, can sometimes be overwhelming, or scary, or both.

This leads me onto the biggest issue in the news at the moment, and that is coronavirus. As well as reading various newspapers and seeing other programmes on the television, I have spoken and been in contact with many people around the world, and from many different fields including biologists and people from the world of medicine. Pretty much every opinion is different. Many of you will have seen or read about the effects of the virus on the news, and

there is no doubt that it can be deadly. At the moment, South America is not at the same levels of alert as some other parts of the world, but we should all take as much care as we can. Please wash your hands frequently, and please cover your nose and mouth if you cough or sneeze. I know your teachers will talk more to you in your classes about this issue.

On a much happier note, I will now ask our new Head Boy and Head Girl, Felipe Crosa and Paulina Seré, to give their first speech to you as the School's student leaders.

Examinations of the University of Cambridge and International Baccalaureate Organisation. Member of Council of International Schools

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