



Dear Parents

There's a certain quiet pervading the Secondary school this week, as the normally lively lessons are replaced with assessments, during our first formal assessment cycle of the year. I know that many students have been working hard to prepare themselves for these assessments, and in that respect they are certainly good practice for the more formal examinations that students will eventually sit for IGCSE and IB. However, as surprising as it may seem, the actual results/scores/grades of these assessments are not the most important outcome as far as the teachers are concerned (they use these assessments to determine where students are and then adjust their teaching accordingly) – and shouldn't be the only outcome to interest the students (and parents!) too. Assessments such as these provide students with answers to a whole range of questions including:

- Which topics have I understood really well?
- Which topics do I need to review or ask for help?
- Which skills have I mastered?
- Which skills do I need to keep practising to develop further?
- How effective were my revision strategies – what worked and what didn't?
- Did I spend enough time preparing for each assessment/subject?
- How can I prepare more effectively next time?

I hope that all our students will take the time to sit down and reflect after the assessments, and consider their own responses to these questions – and not just focus on the result itself, as only by reflecting will they be able to learn from these assessments and improve next time.

On a similar theme, our Year 11 and 13 students are fast approaching their mock examinations, which begin on 30 November. For them too, whilst the grade they achieve is important, students should see these examinations much more as an opportunity to reflect on the questions above so that, come May or June, they put themselves in the very best position possible to fulfil their potential.

This evening and on Tuesday evening next week, we look forward to welcoming our Year 7, 8 and 9 parents to the Academic Review Evenings. As you know, we are trialing running these events by surname, to facilitate parents who have more than one child across the three year levels. We will be looking closely to see how effectively this works, and ask you, please, to let us have any thoughts you may have on how this has worked for you, so we can then decide whether to continue with this approach.

On a separate note, your children may have mentioned that they have seen me in some of their lessons recently. I have been spending some time observing lessons, to get a real feel for the teaching and learning that happens here at NAIS Pudong. I'm delighted to share with you that, on the whole, I have been very impressed with the quality of teaching and learning that goes on, day in, day out, across the Secondary school. Lessons are varied, pacy, challenging yet supportive, and students are attentive, inquisitive and focused. The thing that has struck me most, however, is the quality of relationships – between teacher and students, and between students themselves, with everyone operating in an atmosphere of mutual respect, support and high expectations (of themselves and of each other), truly embodying our 'Be Ambitious' philosophy. It has been a real pleasure to see, and I look forward to seeing many more great lessons over the coming weeks and months.



Finally, I am sure you will join with me in congratulating our U15 FOBISIA team who returned on Tuesday from a cold and hazy Beijing, each member in possession of a medal, and having done us proud in the various competitions. Well done to all of you!

With kind regards

Dinah Hawtree
Head of Secondary