



Friday October 4<sup>th</sup> 2024,

Dear parents,

This week has seen our first minor assessments of the 24/25 academic year. In all schools, assessment windows provide an important opportunity for teachers to ascertain where both classes and individual students are in terms of progress towards goals, and that is certainly the case here in Straits International School Rawang. Academic data is produced in vast quantities in education, but the key to schools using this effectively is much more about the quality rather than the quantity of their internal monitoring systems. To this end, parents should be assured that our teachers are now embarking upon a process whereby assessments are graded and narratives are formed around the data created. Numbers on a spreadsheet, after all, are just that – numbers. What we are seeking to do is to work out with accuracy what those scores are actually telling us and, most importantly, what we need to do next in order to ensure that all students are on track to at least meet but ideally also exceed their academic potential.

This will mean that when you come to your forthcoming PTCs (Parent Teacher Conferences), your child's teacher(s) will be able to provide you with clear and accurate information about their progress so far this academic year. As parents, it is vital that you leave those meetings knowing all that you need to know and feeling as if all of your questions around next steps have been answered.

Academic journeys, of course, are rarely straightforward. In all years of a school – whether this is EY or the final stages before University applications are made – progress can take many forms, and this almost never looks like a simple, straight line from beginning to end. Progress in study is often messy and students can blossom at different speeds and sometimes at surprising moments. Our job as educators is to help you as parents understand that we are tracking each student's journey as an individual and that your child is being given bespoke support and guidance which is right for them – wherever they may be on their own journey currently.

What will help you as parents to understand your child's journey is the curriculum information we published earlier this academic year, and which can be found [here](#). If your expectation, for example, is that your child can recite huge swathes of Shakespeare's plays in Year 7 but Shakespeare doesn't appear on the curriculum until Year 9, then it may also be the case that what you think should be happening doesn't quite match up with what is really going on in school!

Finally, the golden rule of reporting academic progress to parents in schools is this: *no surprises*. If there are issues already, then it should never be that you only find out about them whenever PTCs come around again. To this end, I would urge parents to stay in touch with teachers just as much as I insist that teachers stay connected with parents. We have a range of means by which channels of communication between school and home can remain constantly open (Dojo, email, meeting in person – to name but a few) and I am very keen for any concerns to be addressed as swiftly and as transparently as possible.

Yours sincerely,



Steven Miles.

Campus Principal – Straits International School Rawang

[s.miles@rawangsisgroup.edu.my](mailto:s.miles@rawangsisgroup.edu.my)

