



Nurturing responsible global leaders

How Malvern College's Five Centres of Excellence are reshaping the future of education

There's something quite special taking place at Malvern College International.

Across its Hong Kong campuses and throughout the Malvern College global network, pupils are being introduced to a way of education that seeks to prepare them for a future that is equal parts exciting and unpredictable.

Based around "Five Centres of Excellence", the British education institution is fostering a style of learning that puts greater emphasis on entrepreneurial education, embracing outdoor and environmental challenges, British pastoral care and embracing a global perspective.

It's an idea that has been years in the making, but one that sits at the heart of Malvern's tradition of innovation and holistic education.

Here, pupils are encouraged to think critically and creatively, to be independent and to take risks in their learning. Areas like emotional well-being are nurtured alongside academic achievement and the opportunity



to think outside the box, test their own ideas, solve problems, give back to society and play freely with a wide range of educational tools. And as the world grapples with climate change, disruptive technology and a radically shifting business climate, it's skills like this that will help shape the next 30 years.

"We try very hard to get our pupils to think from a completely different viewpoint," says Jacqueline So, Co-Founder and Chief Executive of Malvern College International (Asia Pacific).

"We consider entrepreneurial education to be especially valuable. It combines our strong

science heritage with innovation and equips our pupils with the skills necessary to become responsible leaders of tomorrow."

Malvern is certainly not alone when it comes to finding creative ways to approach the future.

A recent report titled *The Future of Jobs* developed by the World Economic Forum shows that half of today's workplace activities could be automated by 2055, creating new roles, responsibilities and challenges for the future workforce.

Dr Robin Lister, Founding Headmaster of Malvern College Hong Kong, says that what Malvern is trying to do is emphasise skills the modern world is in need of right now.

"When we talk about entrepreneurial education, what we are trying to do is instill these skills right from preschool up to Sixth Form," he says.

"Children need to challenge ideas. They need to establish critical thinking. They need to be creative and not frightened of making mistakes."



Lister says this entrepreneurial approach is already having an impact on how pupils interact with the school and their surroundings.

"I had a group of children knock on my door a few weeks ago saying what can we do to make the school more environmental?"

"I said well, you tell me. So they went away and came up with a whole list of things and now we're collecting stuff, recycling and doing all kinds of things. It's all driven by the children, which is marvelous."

Forest-Beach School

Just one example of this philosophy in action is Malvern's Forest-Beach School initiative, where pupils are encouraged to develop their creative, innovative and collaborative skills beyond the confines of the classroom walls.

The Forest-Beach School programme builds teamwork and interpersonal skills through activities such as hide-and-seek, scavenger hunts and through supervised activities like shelter building, tool handling or lighting fires.

Jacqueline McNalty, Founding Principal of Malvern College Pre-School, says a big part of entrepreneurial education is connecting pupils to the outdoors, connecting to community groups and looking at real world problems.

McNalty says after seeing rubbish wash up on the beach and seeping into drainpipes, pupils developed an innovative system to stop it.

"They came back to school, thought about it and designed a beach cleanup, designed posters, organised the trip and designed a system to capture rubbish coming out of the drainpipes.



"I think this is very exciting, very powerful and wonderful that we're being so future-focused."

For Malvern, these are student-led solutions solving problems that affect us all.

"They take ownership of their learning and it enhances all areas, not just wellbeing, but it benefits their academic learning and creates these wonderful, well-rounded individuals that are passionate about learning," McNalty adds.

"Our pupils of today are going to be the problem solvers of tomorrow."

A Central DNA

As Malvern College continues to expand around the world, so too does the diversity of its pupils and staff. But all campuses, be it in Egypt, England, Chengdu or Hong Kong, share a DNA connected through a set of values and ideals.

"Although each of our schools has its own unique identity, all Malvern schools share the same DNA and have an ethos built around our Five Centres of Excellence," says So.

"The Five Centres of Excellence initiative is the anchor for our organisation and will be the key driver of our way forward."

With new campuses being considered in Vietnam, Singapore and Australia, pupils will

have the ability to travel across the Malvern network and experience life outside their own home. A new dedicated exchange program, Malvern College International Academy, allows pupils as young as six years old to travel within Malvern's global network.

"The global campus concept is really dear to our heart," So adds.

"By offering these opportunities we enable our pupils to become truly open minded, global citizens."

For Dr Robin Lister, this is the culmination of years of work which taps into the strong entrepreneurial heritage of Malvern's critical thinking.

"Whilst we cannot fully predict exactly what our pupils will need to know after they graduate, we can be confident that our Entrepreneurial Education will equip them with crucial life skills, such as problem-solving, teamwork, empathy and a learning to accept failure as a part of the growth process," says Lister.

"These skills will undoubtedly help them to navigate this uncertain future."

Five Centres of Excellence

