

Aspiring to be a school of choice

05:55 AM Mar 31, 2010

Letter from Noel Hon Chairman, SJI Board of Governors

WITH reference to recent media discussions about St Joseph's Institution's future, the Board of Governors would like to take this opportunity to clarify the matter.

SJI does not aspire to be elitist but to be a Catholic school of choice for both Catholic and non-Catholic boys.

SJI is proud that we are serving a wider range of academic abilities than most other top schools. In fact, this year, about 10 per cent of the intake had PSLE T-scores of less than 230 and they were mainly admitted on appeal based on non-academic factors and achievements. About 40 per cent of our intake comes from our affiliated primary schools, with SJI Junior forming about 20 per cent of our intake. Catholic boys make up about 25 per cent of the intake.

In positioning for the future, SJI would like to achieve a good balance between attracting a fair share of high ability boys and other boys from both affiliated and non-affiliated primary schools.

With a wider range of academic abilities, SJI is able to provide a diverse and rich learning environment where every boy is inspired to develop to his fullest potential, regardless of his academic abilities.

SJI has been a Gold Value Added school since 2005, a Band 1 school since 2008 and received the Ministry of Education School Excellence Award in 2009, the pinnacle award for educational excellence.

But, SJI is most proud that its graduates readily care for "the last, the lost and the least". SJI constantly strives for innovative programmes to achieve its mission and sustain its focus on all-round excellence that develops character and leadership, so that our boys grow up to be "men of integrity, men for others".

For example, in Religious and Moral education, all Secondary 3 boys spend eight afternoons over eight weeks reaching out to "the last, the lost and the least"; Putting into practice all that they had learned in class. The Harvard Art-Science Programme gives our Secondary 3 boys the opportunity to combine creativity from the Arts with the scientific approach for the development of innovative products and services.

In order to achieve our aspiration of serving a wider range of abilities, SJI is discussing with the Ministry of Education the offering of an Integrated Programme stream.

SJI will continue to provide a balanced and inclusive education that emphasizes academic excellence and yet celebrates the diversity of its student body.

URL <http://www.todayonline.com/Voices/EDC100331-0000048/Aspiring-to-be-a-school-of-choice>

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