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Dear Parent,

Last academic year, before our world turned upside down, I shared information about High Performance Learning (HPL), a programme developed by Professor Deborah Eyre which explores how to enable children to build their learning skills so they can engage in their learning with increasing confidence and experience greater success in their learning journey. Despite the pandemic and the movement between online and in school learning all of us have had to engage with this year, we have continued with this focus throughout. As new parents have joined us, and as a refresher, I thought I would write to share the links as before so parents are able to familiarise themselves with this approach and support their child with the same message.

We have a section on our website which outlines HPL with a video introduction by Professor Eyre who is an educational leader, academic researcher, writer and influencer in the fields of high-performing students and high-performing schools. She is Founder of the High-Performance Learning organisation which helps schools move from good to great. Her leadership experience spans both the public and private sectors, and includes serving as Global Education Director for Nord Anglia Education and Director of the National Academy for Gifted and Talented Youth. There is a link on the bottom of our webpage to her book for parents, 'Great Minds and How to Grow Them'.

Ellesmere College HPL page

<https://www.ellesmere.com/about-us/high-performance-learning-hpl>

We believe that every child has the potential to be an effective learner and with self-belief, and a good toolbox to draw from, they can achieve greater success at their learning and become confident about learning for life. This does not change what we teach but it will influence the approach we take to showing pupils how to learn.

High Performance Learning is based on research from across cognitive psychology, gifted education and neuroscience and on 30 years of practical experience of educators in over 16 countries, the philosophy of High-Performance Learning starts from the following key principles:

We are using key words in our assessment feedback and reporting such as Realisation, Risk-taking, Empathy, Linking, Analysing, Meta-thinking, Resilience and others from the HPL framework and your daughter/son may well be referring to them as outlined on our web page. It would be enormously helpful if parents would draw on this when supporting their child with work at home.

In summary, the HPL approach provides these anchors:



- High academic performance is an attainable target for everyone.
- We can systematically teach students how to be ‘intelligent’ and how to succeed in school.
- World-class schools produce students that are both intellectually and socially confident, who are college-ready, workplace-ready and life-ready with a global outlook and a concern for others.
- There are generic characteristics which students need to develop if they are to be high performers in cognitive domains (ACPs) and values, attitudes and attributes (VAAs) that develop the wider learner dispositions needed for cognitive and lifetime success.

I share the top tips below, taken from Professor Eyre, which serve as a quick reference. I suspect there is little here that you are not already doing – it is the focus on the growth mindset that is the subtle shift.

Top tips for parents

- Expect your child to have the ability to achieve highly and show them that you have confidence in them.
- Praise your child for their efforts because this encourages a ‘growth’ mindset. So ‘well done for having a go or sticking at that’ or ‘you are so much better at that than you used to be’ or ‘do you remember when you could only...’, etc.
- Encourage them to believe they are ‘not there yet’ when they encounter difficulties.
- Encourage curiosity.
- Help your child develop empathy.
- Talk and read with your child and help them connect up ideas.
- Give them responsibility and don’t worry if they make mistakes.
- Establish a regular time to talk – on the way to school, at mealtimes, etc.
- Show that you like learning as well.

I hope you find this information interesting and useful. If you would like further information please do not hesitate to contact your child’s tutor. We are running another survey this week, as we did in the Summer term last year, to gather feedback on the online learning so I would like to take this opportunity to thank you in advance for sparing the time to fill that in - your feedback is extremely useful to us and much appreciated.

Regards,

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