

Message from the WIS Board – 12 October, 2017

Woodford Values finalised

In late 2016, the Woodford Board adopted a new Vision, Mission Statement and Strategic Plan for the school, following consultation with teachers, students, parents and other stakeholders. At the same time, consultations were held to identify the 'values' most valued by the WIS community. Parents, teachers and student representatives were asked to identify the values they wanted to see the school adopt and embrace as we pursue our Vision of

Globally-ready learners

daring to dream

confident to act

empowered to achieve

Our school Values are important because they guide behaviours and attitudes in all aspects of the school's operations - in classrooms, in the playground, among staff, in PTFA activities, at school events, among Board members and in everything we, the WIS community, do.

The Board is proud to announce that new WIS Values, which complement our Vision and reflect our multicultural community, were adopted on 11 October. Three of the five previous school values (*Respect, Integrity and Teamwork*) have been retained and three new ones have been added: *Courage, Diversity and Excellence*. We look forward to students, teachers and others exploring and explaining what these Values mean for Woodford. Following are some ideas to get your minds ticking over:

Courage – to try new things, to embrace challenges, to dream big and pursue our dreams, to stand up for what is right, to express our ideas and feelings

Respect – for each other in all we do, for different points of view, for different cultures and backgrounds, for school and others' property

Excellence – aiming high and doing our best, commitment to continuous improvement and lifelong learning

Diversity – valuing the diversity of our community; being open to the perspectives, values and traditions of other individuals and communities

Integrity – being honest, doing the right thing, standing up for what is right, doing our fair share, doing what we say we will do

Teamwork – working together; recognising, appreciating and utilising each other's strengths; sharing our own strengths and efforts

2018 Budget approved

The Board also approved the school's provisional budget for 2018. We are pleased to advise that there will be **no increase in fees** for current students and new local students in 2018. There will be a small increase in the 'Building Levy' paid by new international students, which will help to fund

improvements to the school's facilities to make the campus safer and more secure. Our thanks to Head of School, Mr Baron, and our accounts manager, Ms Margaret, for their incredibly hard work over the last two months to improve financial reporting to the Board and in putting the budget together.

We are now confident in the school's financial position going forward, following some difficult cost cutting, including necessary staff losses, earlier this year. The future is looking bright – the budget allows for new specialist teachers to strengthen our English as an Additional Language, Special Needs and Mandarin departments and continued investment in professional development to enhance teaching and learning in every class, among other priorities.

The introduction of the Cambridge A-levels program in 2018 will likely contribute to an improved budget outcome for the school; at worst, it will be budget neutral. This exciting initiative, together with the many school improvements underway and planned for in the 2018 budget, should further enhance the appeal of WIS to existing and potential Woodford families. Woodford will soon be the only school in Solomon Islands to offer:

- classes from kindy to year 12 (form 7)
- an internationally-recognised curriculum throughout
- quality facilities that meet the standards required for accreditation by the Council of International Schools
- an internationally-recognised secondary school leaver's qualification (the Cambridge 'A-levels') that:
 - a. provides graduates direct entry to universities the world over (avoiding the need for a 'foundation year') and
 - b. qualifies graduates for university scholarships provided by the Solomon Islands Government, the Australian, New Zealand and United Kingdom Governments and by most universities around the world.

Child Protection Policy

At its meeting on 11 October, the Board also approved for consultation a draft WIS Child Protection Policy. The draft policy builds on the school's commitment to providing a safe and healthy environment for students, staff, families and other visitors (recorded in section 5 of the WIS Strategic Policies Compendium) by identifying roles, responsibilities and reporting requirements in cases of suspected abuse. A copy of the draft policy is attached. We encourage all students, parents/guardians and teachers with a view on the draft policy to provide comments to the Board so we can improve it before it is adopted as policy (scheduled for our November meeting). Please send comments to woodfordschoolboard@gmail.com by 31 October or hand in written comments marked 'Attention: Chair, WIS Board' to the reception desk in the administration building.

Get in touch

As always, please feel free to get in touch to share your ideas on the governance or strategic direction of Woodford. The best decisions are made when a diverse range of perspectives are shared and taken into account so your ideas matter – the Board welcomes input from students and parents/guardians of all backgrounds. For operational matters, please continue to work with Head of School and his team – if you think the Head of School's response breaches WIS policy <http://www.wis.edu.sb/Aboutus.aspx>, the matter can be referred to the Board.