

Trinity College Foundation Studies – Feature for STAR 19-10-05

‘Large and Liberal Education’ at Trinity College

Trinity College aims to provide students with a ‘large and liberal education’. It has been doing this since 1872, and in the context of the globalised world of the 21st century, Trinity’s tradition of learning takes on new significance. As never before, graduates with the potential to be the leaders of tomorrow need the capacity to operate in this globalised world – the international and inter-cultural awareness and perspectives needed to succeed in a world where virtually every aspect of human activity is increasingly shaped by forces that cross national boundaries and span the globe. This is true not only of all aspects of business, but also of, say, public policy issues which are increasingly seen in an international context of politics and law. We need people, able, in the wonderful phrase, to think globally while acting locally, capable of doing business anywhere in the world, be it Singapore, Shanghai, New York, Frankfurt, or indeed, Melbourne.

Thinking globally while acting locally requires graduates to have a set of capabilities that can broadly be summed up as those that come from a ‘large and liberal education’. These capabilities include:

- an emphasis on intellectual and personal breadth, including learning through wide reading and debate about a diverse range of human experience and the clash of great ideas;
- the encouragement, through such learning, of key intellectual skills such as a capacity to think for oneself, to express oneself clearly, and to interpret the nuances of words and other things in their context;
- encouragement to be an active citizen in society, who has thought carefully about values and beliefs, and who has wide and humane international and inter-cultural awareness and understanding; and
- a belief that such education should come before, or at very least accompany, purely vocational (career-specific) education.

At Trinity College, we believe that the acquisition of these skills will come more easily due to the unique opportunities available to our students. Through bringing outstanding students from many countries together in one place, and providing them with stimulating teaching and mentoring either individually or in small groups, and giving them the chance to take part in a rich intellectual, cultural, and community life, Trinity helps equip the leaders of the next generation with what they will need to better themselves and benefit our globalised world.

For applications for Trinity College Foundation Studies, please contact JM Education Counselling Centre at: Tel 03-5633 4732; Fax 03-5634 1944 or email yvonne@jmecc.com.my or carrie@jmecc.com.my.



Professor Donald Markwell, warden of Trinity College and Trinity students