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Dear Parents,

I am sure you will be interested to know that Ellesmere College is now one of the community of schools across the world that has adopted the High Performance Learning approach based on the work of Deborah Eyre. This doesn't change what we teach but it will influence the approach we take to showing pupils how to learn. 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.

What is the High Performance Learning Approach?

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:

- 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 20 generic characteristics which students need to develop if they are to be high performers in cognitive domains (ACPs) and 10 values, attitudes and attributes (VAAs) that develop the wider learner dispositions needed for cognitive and lifetime success.
- As well as an underpinning philosophy, High Performance Learning provides a practical framework that school leaders can use to transform learning – actively involving students and their parents in the learning journey and presenting schooling as a quest for cognitive success. The framework is not another school improvement process, or a step-by-step programme, but instead identifies the component parts needed to make high performance learning a reality, allowing each unique institution interpretation of the framework.

You will see an increasing use of the 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 will start to make reference to them as we share with them which are the focus for the tasks they are working on.



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It is a different approach to the traditional view that ability scores at a young age will determine a child's future, it recognises that the skills to learn successfully can be developed, as set out in Deborah Eyre's book for parents, 'Great Minds and How to Grow Them'. A link to the book is provided for your convenience <https://amzn.to/2RWlhM9> if you would like to get a copy, or it can be sourced through any other bookshop. For further information see the HPL page with a video explanation on our website <https://www.ellesmere.com/about-us/high-performance-learning-hpl> and there is more information on the HPL website, <https://www.highperformancelearning.co.uk/>

Regards,

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