Relationships – the fourth ‘R’ in Education

All Saints’ College Junior School prides itself on the fantastic achievements of the students. Whether these achievements be academic, music or sport the College ensures that all achievements are celebrated and praised. These endeavours are integral to school and are a very important part of what schools are about. As parents of children who will one day be responsible adults in our community there are obviously many other aspects of a child’s education that are just as important as academia. Many of the most highly paid jobs in society are now held by people who are not necessarily the most intelligent but are people who have the most developed “emotional intelligence”. I would encourage everyone to read Daniel Goleman’s book, “Emotional Intelligence - Why it can matter more than IQ”. In this book he recognises the importance of developing the ability to form positive relationships with people and to be able to contribute to a team.

To quote a famous line from one of the Spiderman movies “With great power comes great responsibility”. Empowering students with roles of responsibility is just one way we can work towards developing emotional intelligence in children. I am always very proud of our students, especially the younger Infants students, when I witness them so confidently speak to the assembly. Organising and conducting our assemblies is just one of the many responsibilities students have at All Saints’ College Junior School. Providing children with opportunities such as this has multiple benefits including the development of self-esteem, confidence and, above all, the understanding that at school we work as a team.

As we grew up and went to school we were always told of the importance of the three “R’s” of education - reading, writing and arithmetic. These disciplines of study are still very important but I would suggest that there is a fourth “R”, that is Relationships, that should be given the same level of importance as the other three. This is why, in the Junior School, we now acknowledge outstanding acts of Citizenship in our final assembly of the term. We need to promote and celebrate children relating in a positive way with each other which will, in turn, encourage all children to behave in this way in the future. At All Saints’ College we are not only trying to help our students reach their potential academically, but also to equip our students with the skills to be able to make a positive and meaningful contribution to society.