

PART IV

CONCLUSION BY FIVE-YEAR VISITORS

VISITORS' COMMENTS

Island School is a high quality and innovative school and one that is confident of its direction, has a clear Vision for its future, and enjoys a high degree of support from its stakeholders. The school enjoys stable, visionary and thoughtful leadership, a faculty and staff dedicated to the well-being and learning of their students, students who are proud of their school and eager to attend it and strong governance provided through the ESF and the School Council. A relaxed but highly purposeful atmosphere greets visitors to the school.

The values of pursuing excellence, embracing responsibility and celebrating individuality, are firmly centred on the student as a learner, and there is a strong sense of partnership between and across all constituencies.

In the period since the Team Visit, Island School has embarked upon an innovative review of effective learning, with the end result being the design and implementation of innovative curricula for the middle years: "Island Time" for Years 7-8 and the "Island Futures Curriculum" for Years 9-11. These curricular initiatives are backed by a school definition of learning, "The Learning Journey", which drives pedagogy and is supported by the Skills Framework that identifies desired skill acquisition. This has been ground-breaking work in itself, and it is appropriate in this context to recognise and acknowledge the outstanding leadership of the Principal and Senior Leadership Team for having the drive and vision to see such a significant undertaking through from conception to implementation.

Through discussions with a wide range of school constituents, the Visitors had no difficulty in identifying Island School's strengths, which include the wide degree of alignment to the school's Values, the development of a culture of trust, the degree to which students are encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning, the individual attention and support that students receive from their teachers, and the demonstrated willingness to embrace change and innovation. All of this makes for a very healthy learning culture and bodes well for the further development and implementation of the many initiatives underway.

As highlighted by the school in this report, the major challenge that now faces the school is the redevelopment of the campus to provide facilities that will fully support the students learning journey, and provide the most appropriate environment to sustain the curriculum and associated pedagogies. The Visitors have no doubt that, with the experienced school leadership and the expertise and support provided by ESF, the transition to temporary accommodation and the final move back to the redeveloped campus can be achieved successfully.

In closing, the Visitors wish to thank the school for the welcome and generosity they were extended and for the expert manner in which the Visit was organised. The Visitors also much appreciated the thoughtfulness, openness, and candour they experienced in their meetings with faculty and staff members, instructional leaders, the leadership teams, students, School Council members, and parents.

Ray Davis

**CIS
Associate Director School
Support & Evaluation**

Val Staley

**WASC Accrediting Commission for
Schools**