



St. Andrew High School for Girls

Academic Year 2018-2019

***Theme: Soaring Beyond Borders...Living the Life More
Abundant***

Focus: Teaching and Learning

Last year much time was spent exploring the concept of SOARING as we focused on lifting the levels of teaching and learning in the institution to even higher heights. The image of the eagle in flight became our reference point as we sought to examine and pattern the characteristics of this king of birds that served to inspire and instruct us as we aimed at achieving our goal of maximizing our potential. Thus becoming the best that we can be both individually and as a school family.

As we face the start of a new year, it is time to reflect on the progress we have made and to measure the extent to which targets set have been met and goals identified have been achieved. In order to complete this exercise, the first step is to RECAP the concerns articulated last year and the decisions that were taken:

1) While the majority of our students, continued to perform way above the national average in all areas, many of them were capable of performing at an even higher standard. However they were satisfied with their current standard and they were reluctant/unwilling to exert the extra effort required to move their performance to the next level. Conscious of the fact that excellence is a moving target and that there is no place for complacency in a truly progressive learning environment, the decision was taken effective September 2017, to adjust the academic rating scale upwards by 5% for Grades 7-11. This was a strategic decision taken by the staff in an effort to motivate our students to aim even higher.

2) There were too many students who still subscribed to the culture of teacher centered learning. They therefore seemed unwilling to use their initiative to access information on their own. This would provide more time in class for the development of higher order skills. The staff acknowledged that oftentimes the root cause for this learner dependency could be traced directly to the teacher centered approach to instruction that still exists within our ranks. The reality is that daily we face the challenge of striking the balance between finishing the syllabus in time for exams and truly educating the students who the Lord has entrusted in our care. We however agreed with the MOEYI that the 5E model for instruction, provided an easy to grasp structure to the Constructivist approach to

lesson planning and delivery. This approach was considered necessary if we were to be successful in building the capacity for independent learning in our students.

3) In tandem with the above, the decision was taken to emphasize the use of the 5E # model for instruction as we continued in our quest to adopt and adapt the National Standards Curriculum mandated by the MOEYI. Through the 5E model: **Engage, Explore, Explain, Elaborate, Evaluate**, educators are expected to focus on developing in students the 4Cs - **Communication, Collaboration, Creativity and Critical Thinking**, currently designated as the 21st century skills. We were however warned, that skills are often rendered ineffective and at times destructive if they are not governed by positive values and attitudes. In light of this we were reminded of the importance of infusing in our lessons our Core Values: **Reverence for God, Excellence, Discipline, Respect, Integrity and Honesty, Kindness and Compassion.**

Armed with this mandate the focus for staff development throughout the year was on strengthening the fundamental skills required for successful teaching and learning to take place ie: lesson planning, classroom management with emphasis on the effective delivery of instruction as well as assessment and feedback.

*At the end of the school year we began to **REFLECT** on the process and the progress that had been made towards achieving our stated goals. Based on the discussions and the data presented, we can report that improvements were made in all areas of the teaching learning environment. However the process of skills training is ongoing and Department Action Plans have been prepared to address the weaknesses identified thus far. In preparation for the start of the new year, we will complete this process of reflection so that we can press forward with confidence to share additional ideas on how we can **RESOLVE** those shortcomings that have been identified.*

*Our theme for this year makes our intention very clear. We are determined to **SOAR Beyond any Borders** whether real or imagined that might be preventing us from achieving the standards of excellence for which we are capable both individually and as a community. We affirm our faith in the One “who by the power that is at work within us is able to do superabundantly, far over and above all that we ask or think- infinitely beyond our highest prayers, thoughts hopes or dreams” (Eph.3v20 Amp.) To Him be all the Glory! For the gift of the **Life More Abundant** is not a myth, it is a promise given by the Lord Jesus Christ to all who put their trust in Him.*

Sharon Reid (Mrs.)

August 20, 2018