

**Guest of honour for MYP/IGCSE Awards evening on Friday 2 February at 19:00 hrs**

1. I am very happy to be here with you this evening for the Middle Years Programme and the IGCSE Awards ceremony. I am all the more delighted to be here since through my profession I have been for many years deeply involved with the development of the education sector in Mauritius.
2. Congratulations to all of you students for your success. My congratulations also to the proud and happy parents and teachers for your contribution in the success of the students. I can say that you, parents, have made a good choice for the secondary-level education of your children. As I see it, the LBIS has since its humble beginnings in Quatre Bornes in 1990, grown into a fully fledged modern school with state of the art facilities and administrative structure offering high quality international education.
3. The setting up of Le Bocage International School back in 1990 as the first school in Mauritius to offer the prestigious IB Diploma Programme was indeed a daring and courageous adventure in a bid to bring change and diversity in our education system.
4. Le Bocage is also the first International Baccalaureat Middle Years Programme school on the island having obtained authorization for the full 5 years in 2014. From a small house in Quatre Bornes, to the wonderful campus in Moka, you have come a long way and are still moving ahead!

5. Change must always be for the better. Has it been the case for LBIS? The answer is in the performance as compared worldwide. The records show that in the case of the IGCSE exams for example students have consistently been performing above world average. So, congratulations to the Founding Fathers of the school for this success story.
6. The greatest resource of Mauritius is its people. It is thanks to the hard work and productivity of its people that Mauritius has made the tremendous economic progress which places it to-day among the top-ranking countries on many counts in Africa. The greatest wealth and strength of any nation is its youth. The quality of its youth determines the kind of future the nation will have. Therefore, if we want to ensure a bright future for our country, we need to strengthen and empower our youth.
7. The most potent way to empower the youth is through education. Not just any kind of education, but the right kind of education which trains them to be scientific, logical, open-minded, self-respecting, responsible, honest and patriotic. An educational programme should aim to educate the whole person – physically, intellectually, emotionally and spiritually. It should encourage students to consider and understand the connections between traditional subjects and the real world, and become critical and reflective thinkers.
8. Students need quality education that prepares them to harness and capitalise future opportunities for self development and societal progress. This is precisely the vision and mission of Le Bocage International School, that is, providing a holistic and high quality international education based on the Middle Years Programme (MYP), the International General Certificate of

Secondary Education (IGCSE) and the International Baccalaureate Diploma programme.

9. The Cambridge IGCSE is considered to be among the world's most popular international qualification and provides a series of syllabi and assessment programmes covering the two years of education between the ages of 14 and 16. It is recognised by leading universities and employers worldwide, and is an international passport to progression and success.
10. For learners, Cambridge IGCSE helps improve performance by developing skills in creative thinking, enquiry and problem solving. It is the perfect springboard to advanced study.
11. The IB diploma is indeed a prestigious qualification that should open doors for you to join universities across the world.
12. I enjoyed going through the School Guiding Statements and the objectives. I am glad to also see that there is ample proof that intentions are translated into actions. I see that at LBIS you truly mean it when you say you are providing an holistic high quality international education. In 2016 for example, opportunities have been provided to students to broaden their horizon : - with the under 20 team and two under 15 teams having gone to play in the Barcelona Summer Cup; the Form 7 students participated in the Annual Model United Nations in Rome, the Form 6 students participated in a CAS (Creativity, Activity, Service) experience in UK and younger MYP students went for an educational trip to South Africa; Form 2 students are at present in India competing in the GeoFest.

13. It is very comforting to see how intercultural awareness has pride of place in the International Baccalaureate's mission statement - that education will foster understanding amongst young people around the world, enabling future generations to live more peacefully and productively. As we know, Mauritius prides itself of its rainbow multi-cultural population. The MYP programme inspires the students to evaluate multiple perspectives from different cultures and to participate actively in their communities.
14. Le Bocage readily invests in expanding its infrastructure. The school has added additional space for the creation of a recreational space for students. A new wing to house a recording studio, a small amphitheater, a language laboratory and an artistic performance space have been added.
15. I very much appreciate the school's commitment to the environment. Photovoltaic cells have been installed in 2012 and the school is exporting 40% of its electricity production to the CEB. Its rain water retention tank makes the school less dependent on CWA. Furthermore the establishment promotes recycling with the facilities to recycle plastic, paper and carton.
16. I am also very happy to see the extent to which importance is given to the use of the English Language at LBIS. I firmly believe that a good mastery of the English Language is a definite advantage for any person to thrive and succeed in Mauritius and at the International level.
17. I have no doubt that le Bocage International school will achieve its mission of providing quality secondary education based on the principles of intercultural awareness and international understanding. You are meeting the

individual needs of a wide range of students and preparing them to be responsible, caring and principled citizens and able to resist the temptation to go into bad habits such as drug consumption.

18. Let me conclude by commending the school's achievements, and again warmly congratulating all of you students for your educational achievements. Having got this MYP or the IGCSE certificate you will all proceed to Form 6 and next year to Form 7 for the IB international examinations. I wish you all the best for the rest of your studies.