



High Performance Learning (HPL) - World Class Accreditation commences at FPS

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to you with exciting news that GEMS FirstPoint School has embarked on the journey to become an HPL World Class School. We have taken the first steps to this by adopting the High-Performance Learning skills and competencies and building them into our curriculum, pastoral programme and extra-curricular offer.

The latest neurological and psychological research is proving that most children are capable of reaching high levels of performance that were previously associated only with the gifted and talented. We are taking this research and using it to inform our own teaching and developing our children to become the high-performance learners we all know they can be.

HPL will support the school's belief that absolutely every child has the potential to succeed. For some the journey takes longer, but we know that with the right opportunities, support, motivation and practice all of our children can reach their goals. Their success will be the ability of an individual to thrive in the next stage of life both socially and academically. Each individual will have all the skills and qualifications necessary to move on to the next stage of their career and to be a world-ready global citizen.

Your child may have already been talking about HPL and the values of empathy and hard-work. These, and the process of metathinking, are what we have been focusing on in Term 1. This week, we held a full school launch of HPL, with Mr. Wade reminding us of our school vision and sharing the plans for HPL to make us an even more successful school. Please do talk with your child about what they have been doing so far and ask them about the exciting launch they will have had. They may come home wearing a HPL sticker or talking about a poster competition please do encourage your child to tell you all about these.

To truly integrate HPL as part of our school family vision, we have appointed a HPL student team of ambassadors and these will work with a select team of staff to drive HPL at FirstPoint. Soon, we will be looking for parents to volunteer as HPL Parent Ambassadors. We will send more information on this after the half term break. Until then, if you would like to learn a little more about HPL, please check out the following resources:

How to Raise Genius Kids, According To Science', by Joshua A. Krisch

"Gone are the days of talented and gifted programs for students who just kindasortamaybe seem to have an innate ability to think faster than their classmates. Good riddance. Studies conducted over the last decade have shown that intelligence has far less to do with nature than with nurture. Given the right circumstances, the current thinking suggests, almost any child can be gifted. It's both an encouraging finding and an added bit of pressure for parents."

[Read the article.](#)



Read the Guardian article 'How to bring out the genius in your child':

"What support do children need from teachers and parents to develop the cognitive skills, values, attitudes and attributes needed for lifetime success? Here are some ideas from Great Minds and How to Grow Them, based on Prof Deborah Eyre's approach, to help your child become a high performer."

[Read the article.](#)

Read the School Run interview with Deborah Eyre on 'How to keep your child motivated to learn': "There are many reasons why children's motivation to learn can drop off as they progress through primary school and beyond. The good news is that there's plenty we can do to encourage our children to stay motivated without having to nag them constantly or micromanage their schoolwork."

[Read the article.](#)

We are really looking forward to working with each one of you, and your children, on this exciting journey. Brains are malleable and IQ is not fixed. We will work together to ensure that we mould your children into the successful, happy leaders of tomorrow that we all know they can be.

Emma Monteith

Assistant Principal (Teaching, Learning & Innovation)

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