



Monday 11th January 2021 - Community Assembly

Looking forward



The world lost a great thinker and leader in November 2020, with the passing of Sir Jonathan Sacks – philosopher, theologian, author and politician. In his 2020 book, 'Morality: restoring the common good in divided times', he provided an abundance of inspirational thinking. I provide an extract here to illustrate his intellectual courage:

Morality is what broadens our perspective beyond the self and its desires. It places us in the midst of a collective social order. Morality has always been about the first-person plural, about 'We'. 'Society', said Lord Devlin, 'means a community of ideas'. Morality achieves something almost miraculous, and fundamental to human achievement and liberty. It creates trust. It means that to the extent that we belong to the same moral community, we can work together without constantly being on guard against violence, betrayal, exploitation or deception. The stronger the bonds of community, the more powerful the force of trust, and the more we can achieve together.

These ideas resonated with me given the current collective circumstances we find ourselves in. How much we, as a School community, have achieved together. Challenge after challenge; barrier after barrier; frustration after frustration; and yet, our shared values and common ambitions have provided the courage, the inspiration and the ideas to move forward, together.

My teaching experience at CCHS has been framed by working with Year 7 students in Philosophy and Year 13 students in History. Whether 11-year-old philosophers or 18-year-old historians, our students astound you with their academic verve and scholarly prowess, which would have marvelled Sacks.

CCHS students represent, as they always have, hope for the future. With their individual brilliance and collective strength, they embody the progressive confidence which will help energise a future distinguished by hope.

Mr Lawlor