

Mrs. D. Kar

Director



Thank you for your questions. I think that it would have been more fun if we had done this interview face to face but, alas, both you and I are finding it next to impossible to synchronise our time. So, I am sitting down to write the answers on a Sunday night – well before the deadline.

Q 1. How much do you think technology has shaped and will continue to shape the teaching and learning process?

Technology has been shaping the teaching and learning process for some years but it has done so exponentially in the “pandemic months”, especially in urban areas. There is no doubt that it will continue to do so – and in many unexpected ways.

Q 2. In a recent article that you wrote for the E edition of The Telegraph you talked about testing the boundaries of loyalty. With a sense of loyalty to your own kind, acceptance and appreciation of others is equally important. Do you think that an entire community of schools has helped each other achieve the heights that they have reached today - how has this cooperation helped Modern High School for Girls to grow over these 70 years?

Actually, I write for the print edition of The Telegraph. Yes, I did write about loyalty but I don't think it has much to do with “acceptance” or “appreciation of others”. I have always maintained that learning is meant to be shared. This is the reason why I find competition in academics quite distasteful. I know that schools help one another but, in my opinion, sharing and networking is pitifully inadequate, especially in our city. We should collaborate more, share our resources in a structured manner and keep learning from one another – not incidentally but in a planned way.

3. You spoke about how it is wonderful when people argue sensibly as it helps in bringing about progress and change. Do you think that there is a rule in school that the students should have protested about and yet they haven't? What is that one rule you yourself would like to see abolished?

You will be surprised to learn that soon after I joined MHS, I announced to students that they should not follow rules that are meaningless. I gave them the liberty to inform me of any rule that we have at MHS that was pointless and I would remove the rule immediately. However, they would need to convince me of its pointlessness. Till date, nobody has been able to establish that any rule followed at MHS is redundant. I am sure that many students detest some of our rules but they are unable to prove that they are unnecessary.

To answer the last part of your question, if I had wanted to abolish a particular rule, I would have done so after demonstrating to all involved, that the rule was unnecessary.

4. In VOICE, the question of the importance of the uniform is always debated. Do you think that despite having a set uniform, and certain rules that every student needs to follow, our true talent actually lies in the way we are different from each other? How has that difference propelled MHS?

We at MHS, have always recognised the uniqueness of every child and have tried to give a platform to each student to express her individuality. I strongly feel that Individual differences must be respected but unfortunately, there is a tendency among some of us educators to develop students in the same mould. Perhaps this is because of our examination system which demands standard answers to the questions that are set in Board examinations. Thankfully this is changing now.

Having supported the need to celebrate differences, I must point out that there is also a need for uniformity and conformity in some situations. I am sure you will be able to identify those. You are right – MHS is known for doing things differently but it is also known for preserving tradition where it matters. For instance, we have honoured, through 70 long years, the eternal values of Satyam, Shivam, Sundaram.

I must end with the assertion that it is you, along with our past students, who keep bringing glory to our institution. This is one reason why we still stand tall and proud.

