

## **Success is always a team performance - DHPS validates their seal of excellence of the Federal Republic of Germany**

After a week's intense inspection, the three inspectors from Germany, headed by Carola Förster, announced the gratifying result to the DHPS on Friday afternoon: The school fulfils all criteria, to continue bearing the title of an "Excellent German school abroad".

By analysing various documents and in numerous interviews, rating-conferences and lesson shadowing, the inspectors have gained an in-depth picture of our school. A closer look was taken at the topics of "results and achievements of the school", "learning- and school culture", "school management and administration", "teacher professionalism" and four other areas. These features were rated with the following numbers: 4 for "strong", 3 for "rather strong than weak", 2 for "rather weak than strong" and 1 for "weak". In comparison to BLI 1.0 in 2011, when a 50%-rating was sufficient for an evaluation of "rather strong than weak", in the second BLI round, 60% was required to achieve a 3 - thus the level was raised significantly!

We can look at our results with pride: In 15 assessed features, we achieved an average of 3,0. The overall rating is "rather strong than weak". However there are areas, which need attention in future: The focus will certainly remain on internal differentiation; here there is still potential for improvement. This goes along with the focus on the individual learner, who will be even more encouraged to self-responsible work. By changing the learning environment (new furniture, home-room concept, dictionaries in the classroom, etc.) we already take one step towards achieving this goal.

We are particularly pleased with the positive results in the features "train and educate" as well as "manage resources". Over the past few years, the administration under the management of Volker Ross, has succeeded in establishing coherent financial planning with an efficient controlling system. In addition, the inspectors confirm that the responsible teachers play a decisive role in conveying democratic values in school work and in promoting intellectual competency. This also shows us that the changes planned for 2018 point in the right direction.

Surely this weekend is the time to take a break for a moment and look back on what we achieved: Everybody at the DHPS has in recent years - and especially last week - made his/her contribution to the school being awarded the seal of "Excellent German school abroad" again on 24 February 2017.

With the quote of mountaineer Edmund Hillary, we can pat ourselves on our backs today: "We were a team: We worked together, solved problems together and finally we reached the summit."

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