

StarSpecial

BRIGHT KIDS

EDUCATOR'S DESK

Discover yourself and be inspired

SRI Bestari International School (SBIS) has begun offering an in-house Master of Business Administration (MBA) programme. Principal Dr Wong Siew Chin shares her thoughts on why it is important, saying, "A few years ago, during an MBA module I pursued at Monash University Malaysia, I had to answer a question off a randomly chosen card in a game. It read: What would you do if you were given a chance to turn back the clock and do one thing

you like to do?"

"I answered: I wish there had been a platform for me when I was a student that exposed and connected me to the real world, so I could understand and apply the best aspects of the subjects offered in arts stream education, such as business studies, accounting and marketing. In Form Four, I was placed in the science stream by default, and the perception of the arts

stream was always that it was for the less 'elite' group of students."

SBIS' MBA programme aims to cultivate an entrepreneurial mindset among Bestarians by exposing them to various industries through case studies, analyses of business strategies, marketing, surveys, interviews during MBA excursions and being artistic. The MBA module is compulsory for all secondary-level students, who can be as young as 11 years old.

While the skills acquired through the study of science subjects is important, it is equally important for children to grasp the basic understanding and knowledge of how a business, organisation or industry evolves and thrives. It encompasses many aspects and entrepreneurship is not limited to those who start organisations or ventures. More than anything, an entrepreneur is someone who can add value, whether she creates something herself or as part of a company.

Since the inception of SBIS, Year

Dr Wong presenting a token of appreciation to SBIS alumnus Cheong after his sharing session with young Bestarians.



Dr Wong Siew Chin

SBIS Principal

7 Bestarians have been exposed to various industries such as entertainment, food and beverage, e-commerce and more. The students gain in-depth knowledge of each industry through the understanding of value proposition, SWOT analysis, research and, most importantly, interviews with aspiring founders.

Bestarians are considered privileged indeed to receive real-life guidance from entrepreneurs such as Inside Scoop founder Edmund Tan, The Next Academy founder Josh Teng, FAVE co-founder Yeoh Chen Chow and, most recently, Xin Fu Tang master franchisor Dereck Cheong, who was also a Bestarian.

Unsurprisingly, amid the current bubble tea craze, young Bestarians were especially excited to learn from Cheong.

"The fun portion of the programme was when Bestarians were able to get free samples of several products, including a few ice cream flavours from Inside Scoop and bubble tea. We are truly grateful to the entrepreneurs for their support and willingness to take time out of their busy days to share their life stories with Bestarians. It meant a lot to us as we know that Bestarians were inspired through this session and it was worth the effort," says Dr Wong.

SBIS' first intake was in September 2017. The school moved into its new complex in September this year. The new buildings feature state-of-the-art facilities such as ICT suites, a Hall of Arts, a large multipurpose hall, fully equipped science and culinary arts laboratories, music and dance studios, a swimming pool, an indoor playground, a modern library and purpose-built classrooms for 21st century teaching and learning.

■ For more information, call SBIS at 011-5139 7866 or 03-6273 1072.



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