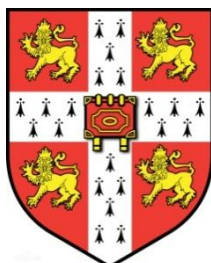




# NFLS International Centre Hosted A Weekly Morning Assembly

- To Promote Its Globalised Educational Philosophy

by Andrew (Mingchuan), Zheng / AS-2 / 7 December, 2014



NANJING - On 1<sup>st</sup>, December, 2014, the International Centre of Nanjing Foreign Language School welcomed its first weekly morning assembly of this term under the Five-Starred Red Flag of Nanjing Foreign Language School DaXingGong Campus. The whole event took place for about 20 minutes and during this assembly, the International Centre showed its idea of education to the whole campus (which included Junior Three students).



## Pluralism

The first session of the assembly involved all the staff of the International Centre standing in a line in front of the students. The staff come from many regions in the world, including England, Ireland, Romania, Pakistan, India, Philippines, New Zealand, Australia, Uganda, Kenya, United States, Canada, Costa Rica and of course the People's Republic of China. The principal of this centre, Mr. Leigh Smith, an English



gentleman proudly introduced the national backgrounds of the staff. In fact, this variety of cultures is claimed to be an essential element of the philosophy of the centre because it allows its students' to widen their understanding of the world by listening to experiences and



different ways of thinking. 'Pluralism has developed my understanding of my surroundings' said Jack Xinyuan Zhao, a student from AS-2, 'for example, by playing football with my teachers after school, I can now have an international view of how to coordinate with my teammates in a football match. This might influence my future life.'

## Patriotism Education



During the second stage of the event, one of the Biology and Chemistry teachers, Mr. Matthew Smith from Scotland gave his speech about his motherland wearing a traditional Scottish kilt. Quoted from Mrs. Han, a Chinese teacher of this

centre, "Patriotism is one principal character of a modern civilised human-being. Our ultimate idea is to cultivate our students with what we call, 'Chinese Soul, Global Vision'." According to experiences from the former students of the centre, good universities or colleges in the world won't accept anybody without the love to his or her own motherland. Actually, many students who graduated from NFLS International Centre are quite patriotic even though they are very far away from their motherland. The detailed reasons are specific to each individual but the main reason would be that the motherland is always





their home for which cares from the parents, sense of belonging and certainly delectable Chinese dishes like small soup dumplings are always available!



### Modernised School Life

The last section of the assembly was fulfilled by two parts. The first part was two promotional speeches of public-spirited activities by two Senior 3 students using fluent American English, and the other part consisted of a live symphonic performance by PAL and Pre-IB students and their music teacher Mr. Acosta who was the conductor in this performance.

Zealand. In the centre, life is not only about studying textbooks and focusing on exams, but also about having something different. Indeed, in the traditional Chinese educations, focusing on nothing but preparing for examination is paramount. However, in this centre, students' lives do have many other interesting events such as clubbing, Student Union election, sport competitions, academic researching, and et



cetera. Just like what Jacob Jiabao Yang from AS-2 said 'examinations do not represent useful skills and knowledge. We do require something other than working with the series of cliché past-exam-paper questions.'



one become respected by others? 'because no exam can give out a standardised answer'. 'However, studying is still the main task. 'Quoted from Mr. Ge, one of the Physics teachers, 'good students are always ones who are assiduous when they ought to be studying and enjoying colourful experiences on other things when they finish their work. That is the true essence of our philosophy and is also one of the factors that even if we hold quite a lot of events but we still send students to good universities or colleges like University of Cambridge and Imperial College London every year. To use Physics idea - work has to be done.' Indeed, students like Jacob are always placing studying in the frontier of their timetables and after studying, they tend to think about their own interests like reading the Principles of Economics or studying the Brief History of Time.



'Crime is too weak a word to describe the action of forcing students to study exams regardless!' said Miss. Aimee, an English teacher from New

Actually, working out boring exam questions cannot help anybody to learn the essence of the world such as 'what is the true value of life? 'Or 'how can