The Duke of Edinburgh Award Program in Maple Leaf International School

THE Duke of Edinburgh's Award has been dedicated to the individual development of young people from all backgrounds. Its balanced programme of activities develops the whole person mind, body and soul, with social interaction and team working. Participants take part in community service, develop a new skill, pursue a recreation activity as well as go on an adventurous journey to qualify for the award.

For staff members and students involved in the program, the student-teacher interaction at Maple Leaf has improved in surprising ways. Teaching used to be a one way process entailing harsh truths in books alone, and many a class gets boring in this way.

We learn how to bake cakes and brown the roast without scorching it, how to solder at points without burning up the circuit board or the fingers. The 'Aha' moments are appreciated by all. Teachers always learn from their pupil, whether they admit it or not! As a result of the shared team work, all feel a connection at a deeper level.

And its fun too! The feeling of achievement and success is often readily served as a snack in the cookery class, as a beeping display in the electronics club, a case debated out by the debaters club or a sore feet but lighter spirit from the walking and exercise by the lakeside. The joy of attainment leaps out at these moments and the shared feeling is felt by all. Contented sleep is assured and a next session eagerly anticipated. Jokes and smiles prevail and flash over into the classroom too!

The leadership skills developed are highly sought after in the job market. And by our modest efforts, we become more responsible global citizens.

