



## *The Legacy of the Rose Society*

A Letter from the Director, Mr. Peter Tongue:

This project is extremely important in establishing a new educational paradigm for the children of today. I want to give a clear outline of what it is we need to do and what it is about me that makes me a suitable person to create and implement this new approach.

I had a superb, traditional introduction into the way in which outstanding Independent Schools operate. I began my teaching career at Wellington College ([www.wellington-college.berks.sch.uk](http://www.wellington-college.berks.sch.uk)) in the south of England where I taught the whole spectrum of students from struggling to brilliant in the art and science of Chemistry. This included students reaching the highest scholastic honours at Oxford and Cambridge Universities. Having gained a Blue by playing rugby for Oxford against Cambridge in the Varsity Game, I understood the workings of these institutions. I coached the senior rugby team at Wellington with great success and brought the team on tour to western Canada. I fell in love with the west coast and within a year returned as an employee of St. Michaels University School ([www.smus.ca](http://www.smus.ca)) in Victoria, BC. My initial portfolio was to teach Chemistry, coach rugby and be in charge of the international boarding community at the school. The boarding community comprised of approximately 200 students (teenage boys and girls) from more than 20 different countries and I found myself responsible for their happiness, safety and well-being while living in residence at the school.

After several very successful years, I was appointed to the position of Assistant Headmaster and Senior School Principal. This position gave me full responsibility for 500 students, both day and boarding, from grades 9 through 12. This included the day-to-day running of the school, the annual budget, as well as supervising the fifty teachers and administrative staff. In my spare time, I continued to coach the senior rugby team which won four Provincial Championships under my guidance.

The school had tremendous academic, athletic and artistic success, but I was aware that the old school system did not meet the needs of many of today's children and youth.

The overly prescribed and rigid learning environment just does not allow for creative students, who operate from a multi-dimensional perspective. I realized that it was necessary for us to create new schools where children had much more control over their own learning. An environment within which they can follow their passion and curiosity, rather than being forced into taking courses which hold no interest for them. Rote learning and being boxed into a classroom situation does not assist them in their learning. The school that we will co-create with the students will be much more experiential with more time spent outdoors.

Many of the children of today have abilities beyond our comprehension and yet we restrict and limit them to a system which is archaic and not serving their needs. My intention is to do it differently!! Together we will create happy, fun-filled places where all children can thrive and focus on their strengths and gifts. This requires a flexible approach, one in which the adults listen carefully to the needs of the student, and then to co-create together an Individualized Learning Plan that will fulfill the child's needs. Some children will want to take on a rigorous academic program, while others will want



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to use their creativity and intuitive abilities. Our system will facilitate the physical, intellectual, emotional and spiritual development of each individual child.

An important aspect of the school will be the realization that we have a collective responsibility to honour each other as well as the Earth on which we live. We plan to model a self-sustaining community which will demonstrate how we can live in peace and harmony, as well as be innovators and scientists. The fine and performing arts will also be important aspects of the school as we raise the spirits through art, dance and music, while also acknowledging the great importance of mathematics and sacred geometry.

The children of today are here to show us how to do it differently. Many of them have been given a variety of labels including Indigo, Crystal, Gifted, Dyslexic, Autistic, ADHD etc. We recognize that all children have unique gifts and talents and this school will enable and empower all of our students to flourish, meet their own goals and enhance our Planet and human consciousness.

This will be a very exciting and vibrant community and we sincerely hope that you will be able to be a part of it!

Sincerely,

Peter Tongue

Director, The Legacy of the Rose Society