



Present at the signing with Ellesmere are (from left) Ellesmere College finance committee chair and Ellesmere College International's board member Charles Lillis, deputy head pastoral Dr Ranjit Chatterjee, finance director Nick Haworth, Matrix Global Schools chief executive officer Felix Lee, Ellesmere College International board member and Ellesmere College former chair Claire Griffith, Matrix Global Schools and Matrix Concepts Group chairman Datuk Haji Mohamad Haslah Mohamad Amin, external relations director Nick Pettingale, Ellesmere College headmaster and Ellesmere College International chief executive Brendan Wignall, Ellesmere College board member Michael Sampson, Matrix Global Schools founder and Matrix Concepts Group managing director Datuk Lee Tian Hock, operations director Mike McCarthy, Matrix Global Schools board member Datuk Logendran K. Narayanasamy and deputy head academic Vicky Pritt-Roberts.

Top-notch schools

EDUCATION in Malaysia is a "hot" topic. Reference is regularly being made in the local press on for example, subject importance, thinking skills and the advantages of one programme or another by politicians and experts in the industry.

Matrix Global Schools have taken the time to reflect on what it is that is important to the child in the classroom and whether following one curricular or another really does make a difference to the learning process. It believes that all curricular have the same pivotal point – the student and whether we make too much of "what" we teach when in fact we should be worrying more about "how" we facilitate true learning for students. Matrix Global Schools consist of Matrix Private School, Matrix International School and Matrix International Pre-school.

A fully owned subsidiary of Matrix Concepts Holding Berhad, listed on the main board of the KLSE, the schools share one campus, one vision and one mission.

Testimony of its successes can be seen in its multiple awards by the SME, BrandLaureate as a Brand Leader and even by the HR Asia as the best companies to work for in Asia in 2015 and 2016. Matrix Global Schools successfully operates two systems side by side; the Malaysian curriculum taught within its private school and international curricular (International Primary Curriculum, Checkpoint, International General Certificate in Secondary Education and the Cambridge A-Level) taught within its international school. Through its "East meets West" philosophy, it believes that the removal of boundaries across curricular will bring us closer together and at the same time, ensure children learn effectively.

"At Matrix Global Schools we look for ways to remove the procedures, the paperwork and the restrictions, which so many good teachers feel bound up by and instead, look at the relationship between our young learners and the teacher. So, instead of being restricted by red tape, teachers feel empowered to develop an environment, which truly supports learning. This does not mean our teachers are not held accountable for all they do in the classroom. We have checks and we do ensure the teaching is sequential, relevant and of a high quality. But we aim for a balance between programme direction and flexibility," said its principal Denise Sinclair.

Some of the best learning takes place when the textbook is closed and students can feel, taste and experience first-hand the theories behind the topics being taught.

At Matrix Global Schools, learning is not about reciting data but about being there and seeing for ourselves the outcomes of our actions – whether these experiences are in the classroom, on the sports field or through facing a difficult situation.

This is in line with the school's philosophy set by their founding principal in 2014 and chief executive officer Felix Lee.



Ellesmere College, a 130-year-old British boarding school in Shropshire, UK, with its extensive grounds and sports fields.

"Our philosophy is to challenge our students to be intellectually curious, responsive and persistent; to be committed to and expressive of their ideas. Our goal is to ensure all will become articulate, courageous and will develop a realisation that the world is their classroom and that our lessons are for life," said Lee.

He often reminds his heads of schools that what is of paramount importance is to continuously challenge students to not only realise their potential but to exceed it. This is carefully done via a cognitive test (CAT4) where all students undergo at Matrix.

It enables the monitoring and charting of every student's progress vis-a-vis their inherent potential.

Lee reiterates that the school's main educational philosophy, "Learning beyond Boundaries" and "East meets West, West meets East", must not only be the mere philosophy but instead should be the ethos and culture of the schools, outlining everything it does. This is epitomised in its collaboration with Ellesmere College UK, a 130-year-old British boarding school in Shropshire, UK.

In replicating the learning environment and experience of said college, students have the opportunity to have a British boarding school experience while they are at Matrix Global Schools.

This experience becomes "real" as its International curriculum peaks at the Cambridge A-Level, which as of April 26 via Ellesmere College, would now see its students in the UK for some parts of its education. Arrangements are currently also being made with another British boarding school with a rich heritage to run its "Summer Camp" at Matrix Global Schools, targeted to commence in the September 2017/2018 academic year. Learning is now truly beyond boundaries at Matrix Global Schools.

■ For a British learning experience, call 1300 229 888 or visit www.matrixschools.edu.my or its Facebook page, *Matrix Global Schools*.

It is also arranging a series of workshops in Klang Valley and Seremban.

The dates will be announced on its website and Facebook pages.