

down your empty plate and bottle of drink on a chair, or on the floor, or on the stairs for someone else to pick up. If any of you see someone doing that, say, 'Pick it up and take it to the kitchen yourself!' Some of you make a mess in the bathroom and leave it for the next person to find. This behaviour is not acceptable. This is not training for life. Whether you go to other countries or stay always in Bangladesh, it is not fair that you think someone else is responsible for clearing up your mess! **THINK!** Be thoughtful and not selfish. There are other people in the world. Learn to share your world with other people. This will make you much better members of your family, your school and, one day, maybe, your student hostel. If you go to other countries, you surely do not want to be called "The dirty Bangladeshi"! If you stay in the home of a foreign friend, it may be the mother of the family, who has a busy job herself, who also does the house-cleaning. Do not make more work for her. Instead, offer to help her. Boys, if you are not clean in your personal habits, you may find it hard to find a wife! Girls, do you want to marry a man who is dirty? Of course not! So, please, learn good habits of personal cleanliness at home and school and practice good habits wherever you go. This will give you more self-respect and help other people, in Bangladesh and in other countries that you may visit one day, to respect you also.

God bless you.



LEARNING TO RELATE NON-VIOLENTLY

Assembly 17a - January 28th 2003

Do any of you read the newspapers? Then surely you know that there are many people in Bangladesh who are very violent. They disagree with someone and they do not know what to do except fight. Often it is dirty fighting. Maybe a young man wants a

young woman and she says, "No!" – so he throws acid on her. Maybe there is a disagreement about land, so a child is kidnapped and killed. Recently, a little girl was thrown onto a fire by someone because her grandfather was a candidate for a different political party. These people are very poor – not in money – and sometimes not in education - but in life skills. They do not know how to talk about their differences. They know only one language – the language of physical violence. As you grow up, it is necessary for a good life that you learn to learn how to understand other people and how to talk to them. When you learn the language of good WORDS, you do not have to use the language of bad FISTS.

So, if you are going to grow up into the sort of people who can help violent Bangladeshis with this problem, you must learn to be skilful in communication yourself. And some of you have a lot to learn. There is a Junior School class next to my office. If they are left alone for 5 minutes, they are fighting with one another! I listen. First they begin to shout. Then they begin to fight. Then there are tears. "He did this!" "She did that!" Yes, girls can fight too! Yesterday, there was some fighting in a Senior Class.

I am sorry that so many adults in the world are giving you a very bad example. Every day on your television screens, you see examples of violent behaviour. Many computer games are violent. The nations of the world behave very badly towards one another. Sometimes, they try to talk to one another but, too often, they are not skilful at talking, so they pick up guns and bombs. We are all praying that the problem of Iraq and the problem of terrorism can be solved by peaceful means.

But, if we want peace in the world, we have to begin with ourselves – peace in our families and our school and our neighbourhood. It isn't easy. Each one of us is different – we all have different ideas and opinions, behaviour and loyalties. But we have to learn to relate well to one another. A famous African American called Rev Doctor Martin Luther King, said, "Either we

live together like brothers or we die together like fools.” Even if you do not like someone very much, you must learn to have a good working relationship with them. This is good preparation for life. You will not like everyone who meet in your life. You may not even like certain members of your own family! If you go to college or get a job, you will not like everyone – but you have to learn to work with them and relate to them in a proper way. Ask your father and mother if they like everyone they work with – and see what they say. This is a life skill we must all learn.

Some pupils are getting hurt in school by other pupils. This is not acceptable. I warn you, if you are found guilty of violent behaviour – the school will act firmly. If it is serious, you will be sent home from school and we will not want to see you again until we have had a serious meeting with your parents. Last year, some girls left because of boys who were rough with them. This year, if there is the same problem, it will not be the girls who leave but the boys who will be expelled. Our school policy is zero tolerance for violent behaviour. We want our pupils to develop the life skills that mean that violence is not necessary. If you see someone being violent, then please report them, and we will try and help them before they leave school and become just one more Bangladeshi who only knows how to relate to people through violence. We are trying to train you to be good people and a good example to others in your country. God bless you.



YOUR BAGS!

Assembly 17b – January 29th 2004

When I was a pupil at school, each of us had a desk which had a sloping lid that opened and, inside, was a deep box where you could keep all your books. Nowadays, desks are too expensive

and the pupils have to have big bags and keep most of their books at home. I know your bags are a problem but no one has an easy answer to this problem. The only solution is for you to be very sensible about your bag and other people’s bags.

Do not carry unnecessary books. Check your bag before you come to school to see you have what you need for the coming day but nothing more. Please do not bring valuable things to school in it. Don’t keep your purses (moneybags) in your bags. Have a pocket with a zip or a little purse on a strap.

But, above all, respect each other’s bags. Do not open or move someone else’s bag. It is not yours. Respect what belongs to others. If you do not keep that rule, you could be tempted to take something from other people’s bag and so become thieves. We have had an example already this term of money being taken from a girl’s bag. But, if you get into the habit of not touching other pupils’ bags then you will not be tempted to steal. If you see someone else touching another person’s bag, tell them, “Hands off! That is not yours!” Can you say that?Say it a bit more loudly so that the person knows you mean it.....You want people to respect your things so you respect the things of others.

If we have a culture of respect in this school, there will be a very good feeling here, a good spirit, a good atmosphere. If you and I know there are members of The British School team who are thieves, it will be horrible. So please look after your own bag and respect other people’s.

God bless you.