

I believe that education should provide opportunities for people to find out about themselves, others and their environment, and to obtain skills they will need in the world of work, community and leisure. To me, this means they must have a basic experience of a wide range of subject matter and modes of learning; it is not possible to prepare for and adapt to a rapidly changing future without a knowledge and understanding of the past from which they and their world have evolved.

In the *mens sana in corpore sano* tradition, they should be helped to develop healthy, strong bodies through education in good eating and life habits, and through physical activities like sports, P.E. and dance. To be healthy members of healthy communities, the climate of their schools and colleges should enable them to learn about themselves and other people through Humanities, including English and Drama, Art and Crafts, History, Geography and Social Sciences and R.E. In my view, Religious Education should not only teach about the main religious beliefs of the world, but also the main non-religious beliefs.

I would hope that, through being treated with respect and set standards of personal and interpersonal behaviour by their teachers, they would learn to treat others in the same way; that through scientific studies they would examine the natural world to learn more about, understand and care for their environment - which is the universe.

In all their studies they would, I hope, learn to perceive carefully, to examine materials and evidence critically and at all times to seek for accuracy and honesty so that they are able to judge for themselves whether, for instance, a statement is supported by valid evidence or a newspaper report can be trusted.

Above all, I believe that education is a life-long experience. It should be a continuous process, based in and round the community where people of all ages are able to take part, to learn and to impart their skills and knowledge to and alongside others.

On leaving our schools, I hope our young people will be self-confident, fearlessly honest, creative, independent and responsible members of society, able to make sound judgements, respecting and caring for other people and their environment, and having the capacity and wish to take a full part in a democratic society.

To sum up, I believe that everyone should be able to go through life aware of what is going on, having discovered the joy of learning so that they carry with them to the end of their days the same sense of wonder and excitement that my mother, recently dead at the age of 89, told me she experienced on transferring to a secondary school in 1906. She felt, she told me, like Keats on first reading Chapman's Homer:

'Much I have travell'd in the realms of gold,
And many goodly states and kingdoms seen;
Round many western islands have I been
Which bards in fealty to Apollo hold.
Oft of one wide expanse had I been told
That deep-brow'd Homer ruled as his demesne;
Yet did I never breathe its pure serene
Till I heard Chapman speak out loud and bold:
Then felt I like some watcher of the skies
When a new planet swims into his ken;
Or like stout Cortez when with eagle eyes
He star'd at the Pacific - and all his men
Look'd at one another with a wild surmise -
Silent, upon a peak in Darien.'