



## Generation Z

I was interested to read about Generation Z in a series of articles recently. You may have heard this description given to today's young people. Born as early as 1991 what sets this generation apart from any other that came before, is the unique era in which they are being raised.

This group has lived their entire life with instant access to mountains of data on any topic through sites like Google and Wikipedia. They are technologically very competent and just as likely to spend their time writing and programming video games as simply playing them. They are unique, as they have grown up with the internet; they are very connected with social networks and have many means of communication and entertainment at their fingertips such



as mobile phones, iPod, and iPads, Facebook, YouTube, Snapchat and IM.

But young people are also growing up in a world shaped by the recession, war on terror, of refugees and economic migrants – and news is instant and comes through as texts and homemade iPhone video footage.

Some young people from Generation Z find it easier to talk online than in person. Their friends on social media are as important to them as their friends in real life. Even as young as they are, they have already seen so many technologies become out-dated. For this reason, they have become the ultimate “self-educators”, learning how to use new things via self-help videos on YouTube.



Like any idealistic generation, they want to change the world and love the idea of volunteer work but you have to ask yourself what kind of education do Generation Zers need? I think that we need to recognise the positives brought by technology but

to still offer some traditional ways of learning and reflecting on what we know. Dr. Aisling O’Boyle at Queens University Belfast has researched changes in communication and how teachers and adults view what teenagers say, tending to write off anything expressed in textspeak or Twitter abbreviations as unimportant. Did you know any or all of the following?

- |                              |                                |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| BFF – best friend forever    | NVM – never mind               |
| BRB – be right back          | NSFW – not safe for work       |
| Fomo – fear of missing out   | GTG – got to go                |
| On fleek – perfect, flawless | NBD – no big deal              |
| SJW – social justice warrior | SWYP – so what’s your problem? |

The online Oxford English Dictionary adds updates and new words each and every month. Here are a few that are now widely used in English:

jeggings (2009), photobomb (2008), crowdfund (2008), totes (2005), and staycation (2005)

‘Vlogging’ is a new but now quite a common and lucrative phenomenon for some young people as they use mobile phones to film themselves and then send out their videos to the world. In theory, anyone can video blog, or ‘vlog’, as long as they have a camera, an internet connection and



something to say. For the UK’s top vloggers it has become a career where they can earn thousands of pounds for mentioning a product to their millions of fans. Take a look at Lily Pebbles, JJ Olajide (best known for his YouTube channel, which has, as of October 2015, reached over 10.6 million subscribers) and Anna Gardner.

For me it is about keeping some balance and perspective. Pencil and paper is still a great way to organise your thoughts and it helps to keep some originality while the Internet gives great and instant access to information. Quite a lot of what I have written here is a cut and paste from articles in the media – some is unverified and that is part of another problem. Already in school we make great use of chromebooks, tablets, desktops, laptops and other devices and I think it is fortunate that the IB lends itself to innovation and progress rather than sticking to a narrow obsolete style of learning. I am just trying hard to keep up with it all!

## School News

The school year is well underway now and already there have been many enrichment activities:

Last week Year 5 visited the New North London Synagogue as part of their Unit of Inquiry.

On Monday Reception children visited Parkside Farm and on Wednesday Year 3 were at the Royal Academy.

Yesterday it was ‘Back to School Day’ for Lower School parents and D1 and D2 students visited the Serpentine Gallery in Hyde Park.

From 12th to 14th October some of our IBMYP and Diploma Theatre Arts students are at ISTA <http://www.ista.co.uk> for drama workshops and theatre visits.

Coming up this weekend 17 girls from our Upper School Netball teams will be staying at Conover Hall in Shropshire <http://www.condoverhall.com> for a weekend of matches and training and when they are not playing netball they have opportunities to try out zip wire, body zorbing, archery, climbing and abseiling.



Best Wishes,  
Mr. David Rose  
Head of School

