

Welcome to Care Conversations



The
Excellence
Centre

CARE CONVERSATIONS

FORWARD
FROM

DR TINA LAMONT // Director TEC



Dear Friend,

In this Care Conversation we look at Spiritual Formation at a personal and community level.

Each of us have a personal journey as disciples of Jesus where God changes and forms us spiritually. Spiritual formation happens as we intentionally pursue our relationship with Jesus where He changes us to become like Him. We join with Paul in expressing a heart's desire to know Jesus above all else (Philippians 3:7-11). The evidence of spiritual formation is the Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). Yet our spiritual formation never happens in a vacuum. God's intention is that our spiritual formation happens in the context of His community where God's people together are transformed into His likeness. This becomes a unique, defining and powerful witness as we shine the light of Jesus

to the world.

Yours in Christ,

Dr Tina Lamont

Director TEC

The Excellence Centre

Series 13:

PERSONAL AND COMMUNITY SPIRITUAL FORMATION

REFLECTION BY BRIAN COX

Consultant in Leadership & Education

Number 10:

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

We can always do it better.

School Leaders should be constantly desiring communities that are Christ focused, Bible based, prayerful and worshipful.

We must recognise and honour parents as the prime educators of their children.

We must build a culture of shalom community that encourages excellence in teaching, learning and serving.

We must be developing young people who understand that Christ is preeminent in all things and that they have a responsibility to engage redemptively wherever they may be.

They must be compassionate, bold but vulnerable, gracious and loving. They must seek truth and engage others in that journey.

It's not enough to have a desire for these sorts of things; we must actively pursue them and develop our school communities in such a way that these things may be achieved.

The first step is to continually articulate our goals and purposes as we pray and seek God's wisdom together. There is wisdom in setting goals for our schools and our students. Then we must work out ways of enhancing our development.

Wise school leaders will recognise the value of seeking support, encouragement and helpful criticism from knowledgeable people outside of their community. People who may be able to see things a little more objectively. People who can interpret the school's articulated goals and assess whether they come close to reality. To encourage where good things are happening, and to critique where improvements need to be made.

School improvements are best made collaboratively, engaging all people in the community: Leaders, Teachers, Staff, Students, Families.

They are also best made gently. Change always causes an initial downturn in morale, until people can understand the purpose of the change and the advantages that will come. For this reason, leaders need to take care not to introduce too many changes at once.

So, in summary, we should always be looking to improve. We should be careful to clarify that improvement in the future does not necessarily mean a condemnation of the past. Keep people informed as to the reasons for change (The Why) and the benefits of the change (The Where). Use experts from outside your school community, not to set your criteria, but to help you achieve and evaluate the criteria that you want. Celebrate the great things and people in your community often.

Pursuing improvement together.

Brian Cox

Consultant in Leadership & Education



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Whoever does not bear his
own cross and come after
me cannot be my disciple.

Luke 14:27



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