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CARE CONVERSATIONS

FORWARD  
FROM

DR TINA LAMONT // Director TEC



Dear Friend,

As we look at the heart and nature of school communities, this week's Care Conversation is about "catching things".

Our deep desire is to raise up children and students to live their lives as image bearers of Jesus who live purposeful lives. Formation doesn't just happen. This statement puts an immediate action of responsibility onto parents and teachers. As we live in relationship to Jesus and in our God-appointed communities, the role of influence and credibility of faith becomes visible. This enables growth and transformation as children and students see something authentic in the lives of those they believe in.

Our students are always alert and watching. They take their cues from their

centres of influence which includes their parents, school teachers, church and social contexts. Each of these contexts is a community in and of itself and those who are leading must live out their faith with integrity and coherence to have the best possible chance of helping children and students become all God created them to be. We must challenge ourselves daily and ask the question “what will others ‘catch’ from us?” It’s a big call but it’s a call of privilege. Be blessed.

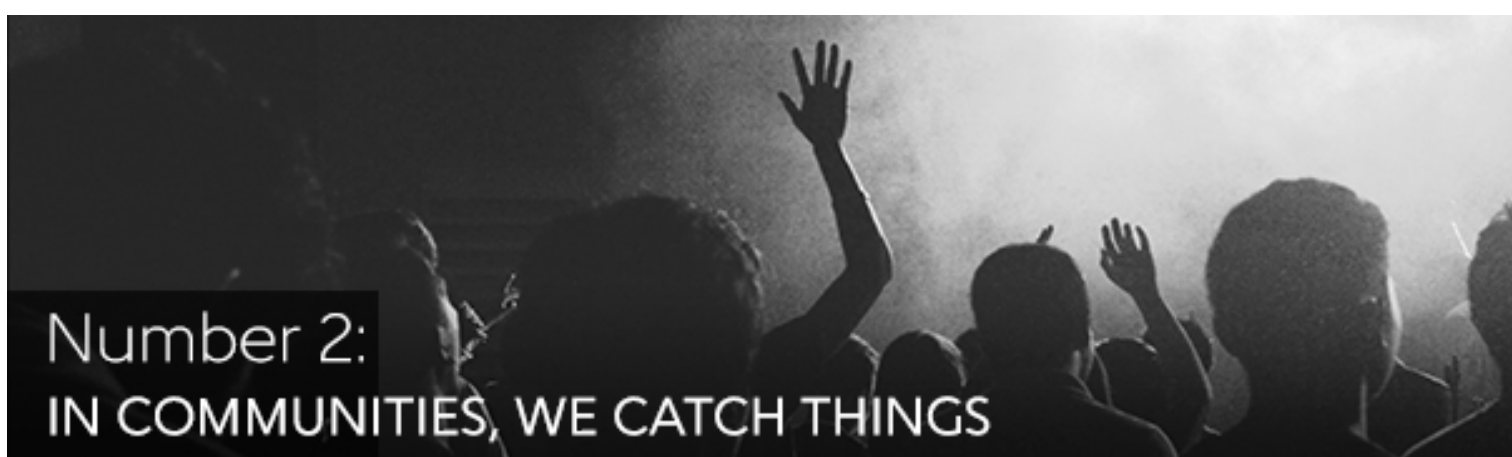
Yours in Christ,

*Dr Tina Lamont*  
*Director TEC*  
**The Excellence Centre**



## REFLECTION BY BRIAN COX

Consultant in Leadership & Education



I seem notoriously susceptible to sicknesses when I fly somewhere. Any trip longer than a couple of hours and I can be guaranteed to have absorbed every person’s cold virus! The closer we are to people the more likely we are infected by things. This doesn’t just apply to sickness and disease; it applies to positive

and enjoyable things also.

*“We often get infected by the desires of people around us. This should not surprise anyone. We also often start yawning when people around us yawn. And we get infected by the emotions of others – a film can seem much funnier if everyone in the audience is laughing out loud. Our emotions are influenced by the emotions of others. And our desires are influenced by the desires of others.” [1]*

This is how young people are influenced in a family or any other community of which they are a part. Children are infected by the desires, actions and beliefs of their parents. Kindergarten children are convinced that their teachers are always right; they enthusiastically imitate them.

Two issues to consider.

1. Parents and teachers had better be certain that their beliefs, truth and reality are as correct and faithful as possible, otherwise we are simply leading young people astray by our example.
2. Our children do not stay young; they do not stay in a state of blind acceptance; this is a good thing.

Families and communities must encourage inquisitiveness and a desire for greater knowledge and understanding. So, one of the desires our students need to be infected by, is the desire to know truth.

Our love for God, our dependence upon Him, our recognition of His sovereignty and His rule and reign over all of life, His Holiness and His great love, mercy and grace – will be infectious. Our school communities will also want to provide a community environment where all questions and issues can be explored authentically.

It is critical that our young people move from being influenced by us to see the transforming influence of Jesus.

“Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.” [2]

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[1] Bence Nanay Professor of Philosophy, University of Antwerp and University of Cambridge

Brian Cox

Consultant in Leadership & Education



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