



Introducing SDC's CORE SKILLS CLAN ...

In preparing our children for a future that we cannot yet imagine, ADvTECH schools are focusing on five core skills. Teaching and learning will be focused on the inclusion and explicit instruction of these essential 21st century skills as we strive to develop:

- Critical, Creative and Reflective **Thinkers**,
- Skilled / Competent / Able **Researchers**,
- Effective **Communicators**,
- Capable and Confident **Collaborators** and
- Resilient individuals who are able to **Manage themselves**.

To teach these skills at Southdowns College Preparatory, we have introduced our students to five superheroes.

- *Theo Thinker*, our **Thinking Skills** superhero,
- *Research Rajesh*, our **Research Skills** superhero,
- *Katie Coms*, our **Communication Skills** superhero,
- *Social Siby*, our **Social Skills** superhero and
- *Manage-Me Mike*, our **Self-Management Skills** superhero.

Theo Thinker helps us understand that it's okay to make mistakes. In our evolving world, the ability to think is fast becoming more desirable than any fixed set of skills or knowledge. We need problem solvers, decision makers and innovators and to produce them, we need new ways to teach and learn.

Research Rajesh teaches us how to make inquiries when seeking information. He is our media and digital literacy superhero. Learning research skills at a young age will not only be useful in school, but in their everyday lives as they attempt to absorb ever-increasing amounts of information.

Katie Coms says: "Listen first!" Communication skills are essential for the successful future career of any student. In today's competitive world, communication skills are a sought after quality. Reading, writing and listening carefully are the three most important communication skills for students.

Social Sib shows us that we are not ‘islands’ and we must monitor our personal behaviour and collaborate with others. Good social skills require good communication skills. Because we communicate verbally and non-verbally, both of these types of skills contribute to how well students relate to their peers. Children with language problems often have trouble socially because they have difficulty understanding the words that other children use and/or putting their ideas into words to express these ideas to others. They can’t find the right words to use or easily put them together in a way that makes sense. They may have trouble understanding or telling jokes. They may not know the current jargon or idioms that their peers use. They may also have trouble keeping up the pace of conversations, particularly in a group. It is hard for them to jump into a conversation.

Other children, who may have good language skills, have trouble with non-verbal communication. They can’t “read” body language, facial expressions or tone of voice. These children interpret words literally and may miss the majority of the intended communication. Much of accurate communication depends on non-verbal cues and gestures. To communicate competently, a child must be able to process the whole message sent by another and integrate the verbal and non-verbal components of the message.

Manage-Me Mike’s motto is: “Attitude is everything!” He represents good organisational and self-reflection skills. Self-management plans are used to teach students to independently complete tasks and take an active role in monitoring and reinforcing their own behaviour. An important goal in education is to foster self-reliance and independence. The critical elements of self-management include setting goals, monitoring behaviour and evaluating progress.

Now that we’ve introduced you to SDC’s Core Skills Clan, we hope that our superheroes will help you to become better thinkers, researchers, communicators, collaborators and self-managers.

To infinity and beyond, fellow superheroes!

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