Scotch College has a proven record of producing good young men ready to enter tertiary study and the workforce. However, we believe that if we are to truly prepare our boys for life, we need to give them options beyond WACE.

The world has become a more complex place. Globalisation makes it an imperative to continually consider the impact of world events. The International Baccalaureate (IB) empowers boys to face these challenges by developing their problem solving skills and nurturing a global outlook.

I have had sons go through WACE and the IB, and recognise the self-directed nature of the latter is not for every student. It’s hard work and students need to be dedicated and organised. But if they’re curious, if they’re independent, it can unleash the most amazing passion for learning as they are free to explore their own interests in the extended essay.

As an employer, I know academic performance can get a candidate through the door for an interview. Unfortunately, it is not an accurate predictor of future success. The person who will go far is the broad conceptual thinker who can analyse issues, think holistically, work hard and has the capacity to write. These skills are all at the core of the IB.

A school is like a company in that it is made up of people with a broad range of interests and abilities. Our responsibility is to give everyone an opportunity to reach their potential.

The ultimate measure of success for PLC is the success of our graduates. To maximise the chances of success for every girl who attends the school, we offer a holistic education that encourages personal development. We recognise that there is no such thing as a one-size-fits-all education system and that in order to enable every girl to reach her full potential, we must also recognise everyone’s potential is individual.

That is why after careful consideration, we made the decision to offer our senior students the choice of WACE or the International Baccalaureate (IB).

As a former IB student myself, I can attest to how stimulating the curriculum is for curious, self-directed learners. Studying for the IB encouraged me to think in a holistic way, rather than subject by subject; to learn about different cultures and philosophies; to challenge myself intellectually and to question ideas and concepts; to appreciate the value of service to others; and to build the capacity for persistence, organisation and hard work. The international focus encouraged my interest in living, studying and working overseas and the international recognition the IB diploma receives made it easier for me to do so.

Young women want to carve out their own path. Our role as educators is to expand their choices and horizons and to provide them with the tools they need to achieve their goals.

By offering different learning pathways with different emphasis, PLC offers more possibilities for the girls to develop and challenge themselves, for whatever journey they decide to pursue.

Richard Goyder
C.E.O. Wesfarmers
Chair Scotch College

Professor Tracey Horton
Immediate Past Dean UWA Business School
Corporate Board Directorship
Chair Presbyterian Ladies’ College

Everyone has strengths
Choice empowers students to maximise theirs