

Foreword

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There are few responsibilities more important than the nurture and development of the next generation. Education shapes almost every aspect of learners' lives – where they spend much of their time, what they learn to value, the activities they undertake, friendships they forge and the strategies they develop to navigate challenge and change. All these experiences influence not only academic achievement, but the foundations of lifelong success.

Across the world, care for wellbeing is at the heart of positive, supportive learning environments. Understanding the impact that choices made at school have on long-term success, and what activities outside school, such as gaming, provide in terms of benefit and challenges, has direct relevance for school policy-making. Equally, perceptions of fairness in assessment, from the different designs to the scheduling of examinations, plays a crucial role in building trust and confidence in the system among learners.

Every article in this edition of *Research Matters* speaks, in one way or another, to the wellbeing of students and their educators. Reading them has made me reflect on the centrality of wellbeing to the core purpose of education, enabling learners to develop the knowledge, skills and dispositions that will help them thrive throughout their lives. Each of us has a part to play in the positioning of wellbeing in the learning environment and in fostering the understanding that what matters to learners matters to everyone.