

Hebron School: home on the hill

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Hebron is the second largest boarding school in the world for 'mish kids'

First choice

Hebron was founded in 1899 with the aim of providing a safe place for the education of the children of Christian workers. It is evident that this role continues to be the school's primary focus today. Over the past ten-to-twenty years most of the British-style 'missionary' schools (eg OMF's Chefoo schools) in Asia have closed, as have many of the American ones. Other schools have changed their emphasis and outlook (eg Woodstock and Kodaikanal, both in India).

Hebron School is the only remaining Christian international co-ed boarding school offering IGCSEs and A Levels exclusively, and operating as a 'British' school, in Asia – and is one of only a very few remaining in the world. In fact Hebron is the second largest boarding school in the world for 'mish kids', only the Rift Valley Academy in Kenya is bigger.

Increasingly, Hebron is the 'first choice' for many Christian worker families in Asia, particularly those requiring boarding with the English National Curriculum. Furthermore, it is apparent that without Hebron many Christian worker families would be unable to 'stay in the field'. As such, Hebron is vital for their ongoing work and whilst



the school remains important for many 'business' families, not all Christian, its existence and stability is crucial for today's mission community.

Christian work

Christian worker families in Asia today are engaged in a wide variety of work. Some are directly engaged in church-planting and support, others are involved in translation work, but most are primarily employed in humanitarian-type projects in education, agriculture and medical work (such as leprosy care or hospital support).

A number of families are helping with HIV/AIDS programmes or with drug prevention and rehabilitation schemes. A few are directly trying to rescue young girls from prostitution, whilst several help run orphanages and schools. Some families run self-help projects and others assist UN initiatives to provide safe water and better health care. Many of

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these families are associated with worldwide organisations, but several are completely independent of church, 'mission' or NGO.

Prayerful support

Stories such as those on this page could be replicated many times over – from both the current generation of Hebron parents and from the past 100+ years! The school needs the prayerful support of Christians worldwide to continue to provide a 'home on the hill' for families such as those represented here. Moreover, we continue to need dedicated staff (and six-month volunteers, *International Guests*) willing to sacrifice time, energy, money and 'traditional' career paths to serve at Hebron. The school has 360 children aged from 5 to 19 years of age (boarding from aged 9 years). We offer a strong academic programme with students going on to top universities in the USA, the UK and Commonwealth countries.

Hebron is a 'holistic' school and puts a significant emphasis on outward bounds, sport, music and drama. We focus on leadership training and on community projects in the locality and elsewhere in India. There are, thus, plenty of challenges for our young people in a superb setting and away from many of the distractions of 'modern living'. There are also a myriad of opportunities for staff in teaching, support work, Dorm Parenting and extra-curricular activities. In all of this Hebron's school motto remains 'Deo Supremo' – 'God First'. Why not consider joining the Hebron family?

■ Alastair Reid, Principal

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Some views
parents cov

No doubt there are special places in Heaven awaiting those who run MK [Missionary Kid] schools! By virtue of your service at Hebron you've contributed to the work of Bible translation in Nepal. If Gavin and Claire hadn't been able to attend Hebron, we'd have left the field. Both have commented on how important their time at Hebron has been in terms of their spiritual formation. Thank you for your commitment and diligence in obeying God's call to serve at Hebron!

■ a family in Nepal



We so enjoyed your visit [to Sri Lanka with a sports' team]. Thanks for your report and kind words. Your visit had one unexpected fall-out. We were so impressed by your young men that both of our sons, and both of us, are now convinced that Hebron is Andy's best option for his future schooling! We were thrilled to see young men who were natural, polite, good sportsmen, fun-loving ordinary teenagers, who were also, as you told us, mostly committed in their Christian faith. Your whole team was an excellent advert for the school and we were proud to be a part of what Hebron is today.

■ a family in Sri Lanka

... of current or recent ... concerning Hebron School

We are very thankful to the Lord for Hebron School. Whilst we feel the pain of separation from our children, we praise God for the talented and dedicated Hebron staff who provide such an excellent and caring education for our children, enabling us to continue serving here in Mongolia. Without Hebron School we would have to return to the UK and so, in a very real sense, Hebron is sustaining our ministry here in Mongolia.

■ a family in Mongolia

God blessed us with two sons. We joined the Leprosy Mission of India being led by the Lord to serve the leprosy sufferers. As time went by, we became more and more busy with the work. It was not just medical work, but taking care of the leprosy affected as a whole. The stigma of leprosy was quite high at that time (and it still is) and patients were rejected by their own families... Due to the prevalent stigma, most of the leprosy hospitals are located away from the main town, into the jungle/rural areas where there are no good education facilities... we started praying for God's will for our children's education.

The Lord opened the way. We came to know of Hebron School through one of our friends whose son, Paul, was studying at Hebron. When we heard from her that all the staff, especially Dorm Parents, were dedicated Christians, we desired to put our elder son, Deepak, in the school. We firmly believed that the parents were the best teachers for their children and home was the best boarding school. But, under the circumstances, we had no choice but to opt for boarding school for our children... We found the school to be very nice, the staff most hospitable and kind, and the environment was nice... After returning home, we felt emptiness without Deepak and often worried about him. Soon we started getting letters from him every week and that was a great relief to us. The school policy to make children write to their parents every week was a very good decision... slowly our hearts settled down... moreover, the dorm parents kept in touch and allayed our worries.

It was a great relief for us to know that Hebron was a balanced school, which took care of the whole being of the children, not just educational needs, but their emotional, physical and spiritual needs as well. It was a great relief to us, as we could stop worrying about our kids. We could see the transformation taking place in Deepak. He was maturing into a responsible teenager. We still remember the words of a leprosy patient: 'I have seen the children of many doctors, but your children are different. They greet us and respect us. May God bless them.' [...] We are grateful to Hebron School for helping Deepak develop such qualities in life.

■ an Indian family with the Leprosy Mission of India

