

Beyond academic excellence

Aditya Birla World Academy's first awards day was a celebration of students' achievements. The chief guest Aamir Khan, eminent actor gave some significant advice to students, parents and teachers about his view of a child's growth. "Right from when the child is 3 years old, subconsciously, he is made aware that he has to come first in class. He has to come first in studies, in sports, in everything. The kid grows up feeling that this is what's important to my parents. That is how children grow up, as people who are competitive because they are taught that, unintentionally," said Aamir. He added, "What if as parents we don't ask them at all whether they came first, instead asked them whose face they brought a smile to, or did they help anyone in trouble?" He explained that if parents adopt this strategy, then children would grow up, understanding, subconsciously, that what is important to their parents is that they are caring and concerned about others.

He addressed the students saying that academics are important, but it is more important to believe in oneself, to believe in what our heart says, and to have the strength and conviction to follow



Principal Radhika Sinha with Neerja Birla and chief guest Aamir Khan

it. We should use our potential to do what we want to do, whether that is painting, writing, playing a sport, making friends, or introspecting; and we need not be first in it, as far as we enjoy it.

While congratulating the achievers, Aamir also reminded each child that academic excellence is not the only area for one's growth. Each student has a talent that will, sooner or later, shine out. He pointed out that the school too is doing its bit to cover the other aspects of a child's potential by honouring students for outstanding performance in sports, exceptional demeanour, and for all-round achievement, among others to holistically develop each child to his/her maximum potential.

The day wasn't just simply about awards. The show was infused with a plethora of different performances, each showcasing the many talents of the students.

The awards day was certainly a motivational evening for Aditya Birla World Academy. For the heart of the school, its students, it was an encouraging push to work harder and thus 'learn, achieve and inspire', as the school's motto goes. For the teachers, it was a pat on the back, a gift of their countless efforts put in facilitating each student to grow.

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