



## *A Christmas message from the Principal*

As I write at home, the television is on in the corner of the room. A movie is showing; a great sprawling epic in the lush multi-layer depth of 1950's Technicolor. The film, set in India, is called 'Bhowani Junction'. It tells some of the tales of the British Raj and Imperial departure from the Indian subcontinent in 1947. A time of great hope, but also one of confusion and despair, as the changing times challenge accepted thinking and give substance to aspiration.

A young Indian and his Anglo-Indian friend are watching young school children cheering the British troops arriving to calm unrest caused by Partition.

"Children always love to watch and greet the soldiers", "Yes but now is the future when education, not politics will shape them" replies her friend".

I have watched this movie many times, but for some reason, on this occasion the simple exchange jumped out at me from the celluloid.

At a time when the world is changing at an even faster pace, the virtues of a good education are more relevant than ever.

As the Principal of a British college with its campus in central London, I believe that we at Alfred the Great can offer a quality of learning that will help students achieve their educational goals. But we seek to do more than just achieve good grades, important though these are, we also aspire to broaden the minds of our students and open their eyes to understanding and tolerance in a world in dire need of such educated men and women. It is only through the dissemination of ideas gained through education that the human condition can be improved.

The Christmas lights and decorations are breaking out all over London, as the season of goodwill gets under way. To some, they are a sign of crass commercialism, but to me they light the way to a festival that transcends all attempts to diminish it. It is a time for the family, the giving of gifts and the celebration of life and the New Year.

On behalf of all us at Alfred the Great College I would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a fruitful and exciting year ahead in 2011.

Simon Creese-Parsons  
Principal  
Alfred the Great College

