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Merging schools must take care not to lose their identity

WITH schools merging as part of the Ministry of Education's Prime project, and affiliated schools entering into a union to strengthen the schools' Integrated Programme, many schools have lost their identity - badges and mottoes - that are the symbolic architecture of these institutions.

As part of the iconography of these institutions, badges and mottoes receive much celebration in the important rituals of any institution. The badge, an emblem of pedagogic stability that has withstood the passage of time, is a symbol of authority of the school, and serves to connect generations of students. A school's motto serves to enshrine a set of values and is laden with attributes teachers wish students really possessed.

New schools created through mergers have a responsibility to marry the ethos of the merging schools in existing students. In addition, they should not alienate their alumni but welcome and continue to engage them under the new entity. This is important as the personal success of its alumni community reflects the quality of education an institution provides. The alumni also benefit from strong ties with their alma mater - we do not progress in life on our own, we grow together with the classmates we studied with. After all, would we as parents not also be proud to be able to claim that 'Daddy/Mummy once studied in the same school as you'?

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