

Principal knows every nook and cranny and is preparing to capitalize on this

SCHOOL: Thomas Thrane, the new Principal of NGG looks to strengthen the Danish student's international outlook through closer collaboration with the international students. This focus stems from the fact that Thomas has the school in his DNA.

By Steffen Slot

Kokkedal: There is no part of the school in which Thomas Thrane hasn't worked. As a teacher he taught the youngest students in primary school, he has held a leadership role in the international school, has established the school's Sports College, been a pedagogical leader and has been the School Principal since 2019.

He has now been named as the Principal for the school where he has worked since 1997 Denmark's largest private school, founded by his father in 1983. And it is this experience and background that Thomas Thrane sees as his strength in his role as Principal.

'I have seen and worked in every nook and cranny of the school, and I have the schools' values engraved in my DNA. I feel equipped to take on the role as Principal of the school because I have a good overview and can carve a direction for growth that also is useful in our day-to-day lives'. says Thomas Thrane, whose three children attend NGG.

He still remembers the day one of his three children came home from after school care and with great excitement told how he had played with an English-speaking boy even though neither of them could understand each other. But through body language and smiles they managed to communicate. Thomas Thrane tells this anecdote as he over the years felt the same level of excitement where there was good interaction between the Danish and international students.

A global outlook

In an ever more globalized world, Thomas Thrane sees it important to strengthen the global outlook at NGG. NGG has an international school for expatriate families stationed abroad typically over a 3-5 year period.

Over 300 students attend the international school, and these students would also benefit from closer collaboration with the Danish students.

I would like more of our Danish students to get a feel for the international environment, a more global environment. We can make this possible through learning focused collaboration, for example when debating viewpoints on eco-friendly living as well as in language lessons. This would greatly benefit international students, as it would mean a lot for their families that their children settle quickly in Denmark and would also give international parents an opportunity to meet other Danes. It is easier to settle into Denmark when children can quickly learn some Danish words and make Danish friends, says Thomas Thrane and adds that there of course has been collaboration over the years but that collaborative learning between the international and Danish department needs to be strengthened and more systematic.

After many years of planning, NGG offers an international high school – the IB Diploma – from the start of next school year. With this opening of an international high school, we can also benefit from the same collaboration between the departments for our oldest students.

Science and learning

The sciences are also getting bumped up on the priority list even though sciences already have been in focus. Thomas Thrane is a qualified Mathematics teacher and this is clear to see.

Our school is located five minutes from DTU's Science Park and we should of course take more advantage of this. The STEM subjects Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics will be even more in focus. We are also increasing our focus on technological understanding as part of digital learning that begins in our Early Years curriculum. We do not want to remove analogue teaching but digital platforms are a way to reach our students as it is part of their daily lives. However, technology can also control us, and we need to prepare our students for this, says Thomas Thrane.

No date for the new school, but there is progress

New Build: *Although everyone at school are eagerly waiting to hear when we can move to the new building, the Board at NGG and school leadership cannot provide a date for when this will happen. When building begins, this will happen with minimal disturbance to learning.*

Kokkedal: It has been difficult to put all the puzzle pieces together. Building the new school to replace the current Cirkelhuset will depend on the plans for building a shopping center and housing and the local planning for this is still in process.

Politicians must find the right balance especially after protests from the local shops in Hørsholm, who fear losing revenue and thus putting pressure on the city center.

NGG held ownership of Cirkelhuset during a brief transition period, and this gives the school an opportunity to get better school buildings in an agreement with the investors who will build in the area.

We are looking forward to a solution, but we no longer are setting a date for this. Following the original plan, we would already be in the new building. Therefore, the Board has agreed that no expected date for the new build will be shared until the dates are fixed. The move to the new school is getting closer and we are looking forward to this says Principal Thomas Thrane and adds:

'We have plans ready for the new school. The space is so big that we can build without disturbing learning, at least not very much. And Cirkelhuset can still be used. There are a lot of things about Cirkelhuset's architecture that I think are fantastic, but the building is old and something new needs to happen. It would be too costly to restore the old building in comparison to building something new'. says Thomas Thrane.

