

## **Necessity is the mother of invention by Manmeet Kaur (4E)**

Innovation is a word that sounds very strange, but it is something we all do or apply to our daily lives. From smartphones to medical drones, almost everything around us has innovative aspects. Sometimes innovation is so subtle, you might be completely oblivious to the fact that some of the items you use are products of innovation. So, you might ask now, what is innovation? In a nutshell, innovation is about thinking differently, creating something new and using known means in a different context. It is about not accepting the known, being willing to change, being open to new ideas and improving old ideas.

The majority of innovation is about creating something that makes our everyday lives easier and saving time. Innovating is very important, and now more than ever, due to the pandemic, it has become a necessity for some companies. Businesses and the medical industry have faced incredible difficulties operating successfully on their current business models which has boosted innovation. An example of this is the drone technology. Although it has been around for a while, the pandemic forced innovators to rethink drone uses. In a time of social distancing, drones became a safer and more convenient way of delivery things and getting medical supplies to people.

Vaccines have been crucial in fighting this global pandemic, and they too are a product of innovation. During these challenging times, some businesses have innovated out of necessity. Michelin star restaurants have opened takeaway services so that customers can enjoy their favourite meals at home! This goes to show that innovation often thrives during times of crisis. The pandemic has made innovation a necessity for some companies, and while they have been successful, it has also restricted opportunities for many companies around the globe.

New innovations can also struggle to overcome some old challenges. If you want to innovate, you must be open to failure, because when you fail you learn. Being flexible and open-minded is also very important if you want to create something new. It's important to remember that when things don't work out the first time, learn from it, move on and change! Change is the only constant, so you must be willing to adapt to change when it comes along. Putting your all into something may be very exhausting, but those who persevere, do well in the end of the day. While there may be many people and signs telling you to give up, you should only listen to your ambition. During a recent visit to the Sino Inno Lab, I was reminded of a very inspiring saying by Norman Vincent Peale, "Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss, you'll land among the stars." It serves as an important reminder to us all to keep innovating, even if we fail every now and again.