

Ten Minute T(ea) with Mr. Ian Torney

*Interview conducted by Bodhi Becker
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Q) What was your exposure to the disciplinary system at Milton as the child of a faculty member?

A) I had no personal or direct exposure to the disciplinary system, in other words I wasn't DCed when I was a kid here, when I was a student here, but I certainly had friends who went through the system. I would say that Milton was a very different place, the world was a very different place way back then. In my recollection, I don't know if this is true or not, there was greater frequency and greater leniency in those opportunities.

Q) Has the frequency of DC's related to academic integrity increased since you were here, or decreased?

A) I think there's a very different sensibility around that topic now. I think pressures that students endure are very different, I think the stakes are very different, so in that regard yes there has been an increase in attention to academic integrity, but I can't think that, you know when I think back to my time as a student I can't really think of a whole lot of instances when that was what was being DCed, nor is it my impression now that there are a lot of academic integrity DCs. I think there is an appropriate or healthy amount.

Q) At the current time do you think that our disciplinary system is too harsh or too lenient or just doing its job properly?

A) I think we have a very good system. I think of it as a two chance plus system, because we have certainly had instances during my time serving on this faculty where students have been DCed for the same thing twice and according to our guidelines they should be gone, so I think it's a system that works very well and takes into account the very individual circumstances of students. I think it's a pretty good system. I've sat on a couple either as an advisor, or as a house head, and I always come away sort of impressed by how thoughtful, careful, and deliberate the process is.

Q) Do you believe that the system is fundamentally based on making students succeed?

A) So I don't think of our DC as a sort of a punishment, I don't think of it as a trial. You should have all of the facts on the table by the time that the DC committee meets, and I do think that this community works very very hard to try and do the best thing by a kid. Sometimes I think it gets a little messy, and sometimes because you have to think about the privacy of the proceedings and

of the student, it's not always as transparent as it might be, but I think it's a pretty good process, no process is perfect, but I think we've done a pretty good job of being as equitable and fair as we can.

Q) Do you believe that we should be putting more or less emphasis on certain offenses?

A) I think that things like hazing, things like distribution of substances, instances of, I want to say racism or inappropriate moral conduct, I think those should be dealt with severely.

Q) Do you believe that DC statements should be read out loud?

A) That's such a hard question, and I go back and forth on it. It feels like public shaming when you do, but I think the reason that we do is that we're trying to lend clarity and transparency around the process and the decision. Every school that I've worked at has this practice, and every school that I've worked at has this debate. It's a really hard one. But I have to say that when those statements are read in assembly, people sit up and listen, and I think they're carefully crafted and thoughtfully stated.

Mr. Ian Torney is a beloved art teacher who attended Milton Academy as a faculty kid. He came back coaching soccer and is currently a house parent of Forbes House.