

OUR OWN ENGLISH HIGH SCHOOL
BOYS', SHARJAH

THE BELL

Anticipated by Students



Volume 5 Issue 2



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'Please bring the title two steps down'...'Have we designed the headers yet?'...'Have we covered all the events?'...'Hope we haven't missed out on anything!'...these are just some of the ZILLION phrases that you may get to hear from within our Editorial team. But when the work behind this issue began, I almost expected it to be more or less a similar experience: a few hitches, few setbacks, few challenges and all faced with an awesomely enthusiastic team ready to take on each and every one of them in their own unique way. Well, the essence was preserved to an extent and I did notice that the working style of the Editorial Board had changed quite a bit. 'The Bell' revolves around OOB, its events, achievements, leaders, teachers and of course its students, and naturally, with the occurrence of a plethora of events and the virtual yet vibrant atmosphere set up here, our team had the perfect platform and the crucial opportunities to showcase the happenings at OOB in the most unique way possible.

But as we present to you yet another exciting issue of the school newsletter, I knew we had to bring in something new, something different from what we might usually expect from the students of a school. This thought gave birth to the all-new Mindception column included in our latest issue. 'Mindception' as we visualized it, would provide the students the opening to not only translate their thoughts into written words, but to further attract readers towards something completely exceptional.

We frequently come across circumstances and situations where we may have to simply accept the situation, start with whatever is available to us at any given point in time and try our best to move on. The best example of this can be seen in what OOB has been able to do in times of such unprecedented crisis that we face today. Shifting towards a virtual platform and migrating back to on-site learning in itself is a Herculean task, which the team has accomplished through its continued efforts. The Editorial team of 'The Bell' takes a lot of inspiration from the same and aspires to bring out the best content to our esteemed readers. We hope you would enjoy reading this issue as much as we did compiling it for you. Until next time...Happy Reading!!!



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ALL INDIA SENIOR SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION 2019-20

OOB recorded a **100% pass percentage** in the All India Senior School Certificate Examination, 2019-2020:

- 226 students appeared for the Grade 12 Examinations this year.
- 86 (38.05%) students have scored 90% and above.
- 183 (80.9%) students have scored 75% and above.
- 224 (99.1%) students have scored 60% and above.
- School average is 84.01%.

Science Toppers:

1st : Akash Prasad, Mokshith Naidu (96.4%)

2nd : Elvin Joseph Jinu (96.2%)

3rd : Nirmal Sadasivan Kappurath (96.0%)



Akash Prasad



Mokshith Naidu



Elvin Joseph Jinu



Nirmal Sadasivan Kappurath

Commerce Toppers:

1st : Somil Jagetiya (95.0%)

2nd : Soham Jay Chawda, Raunak Vaswani (94.6%)

3rd : Abhishekh Mukundan (93.6%)



Somil Jagetiya



Raunak
Vaswani



Soham Jay Chawda



Abhishekh Mukundan

ALL INDIA SECONDARY SCHOOL EXAMINATION 2019-20

OOB recorded a **100% pass percentage** once again in the All India Secondary School Examination, 2019-20.

- 373 students appeared in Grade 10 examination this year.
- 84 (22.52%) students have scored 90% and above.
- 289 (77.84%) students have scored 75% and above.
- 361 (96.78%) students have scored 60% and above.
- School average is 82%.

Overall Toppers:

1st : Manthan Dipesh Parmar (97.8%)

2nd : Adithya Sajeesh Menon (97.6%)

3rd : Shafeeq Ahamed (97.4%)



Manthan Dipesh Parmar



Adithya Sajeesh Menon



Shafeeq Ahamed



ANNUAL PRIZE DAY



The Annual Prize Day 2020-21, not only celebrated the accomplishments of our students but most importantly, commemorated the transformation of each one of these winners, from 'Boys to Men Who Matter'. On 17 September, OOB's glorious virtual program went live on YouTube. We were honored to have Mr. Michael Guzder, Vice-President of GEMS Education, as our Chief Guest. Apart from the respective cohort subject toppers and CBSE Board toppers, the evening also celebrated six faculty members who were the recipients of the GEMS Teacher of the Year Award.



**THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S
INTERNATIONAL AWARD**



On the 4th of October, 2020, Our Own English High School, Sharjah, Boys' witnessed a historic milestone as it hosted its first ever virtual ceremony for The Duke of Edinburgh's International Bronze Awards and were graced with the presence of the Chief Guest for the evening, Mr. Jonathan Bramley - Vice President, Communications, GEMS Education. 28 promising participants were awarded the bronze awards after successfully completing the requirements for the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award. OOB is proud as ever in re-affirming the innate skills of its extremely talented bunch of boys who led the show independently and made it a remarkable one.



“...HISTORY IN THE MAKING AT OOB...”

OFF THE CUFF

WITH

MS. ANUSHRI

(HOD – HINDI)

Q. How were you as a student & what was your favorite subject? Did you have any hobbies as a student?

A. Honestly speaking, as a student I was something like a ‘Nerd’ (laughing). I was the one who always studied and often used to be the topper of my class. I loved reading and listening to Hindi songs and these remain as my hobbies till date. I loved the subject Political science the most and the next in rank was obviously Hindi.

Q. Any particular book that you are fond of ? Why ?

A. Reading is something I really like. But there is one book that I am really fond of and that is ‘The Life Of A Yogi’. It’s a very

interesting book that inspires the reader to think out of the box. I also enjoy books written by Amish Tripathi, who I know is a favorite among the new generation book lovers.

Q. When you compare your school life with that of students today, what do you think is the main difference between both?

A. Definitely, it has to be Technology. It’s something that becomes such a huge distraction most of the time that students can’t concentrate. As students we lacked this distraction. But what I appreciate the most is that even amidst such distractions there are so many students who do their work so sincerely and are using this technology in a positive manner, it definitely is so very inspiring

Q. What would be your advice to students who have taken Hindi as their 2nd language ?

A. I always tell my students to

put their heart and soul in everything that they do, to work hard and listen to their teachers. I feel, a language is well learnt when we use it in our daily conversations, love the language that we are learning and in the process we will master it.

Q. What has always been your favorite quote?

A. "Be the change you want to see in others" by Mahatma Gandhi. I feel as humans we expect a lot from others but when we look back at ourselves sometimes we fail to fall into that category.

Q. You love composing poetry, where do you draw inspiration from?

A. There was a time, a boy named Ahmed was my student. He used to compose some lines of poetry and leave it on my desk for me to correct them. Upon correcting them regularly, I started leaving

poetic replies to the composed poetry of his and that's when I found my long lost passion of writing. It wouldn't be wrong to say that my students have inspired me a lot.

**"... IT WOULDN'T
BE WRONG
TO SAY THAT
MY STUDENTS
HAVE INSPIRED
ME A LOT ..."**



- Mayur Jhamnani (IID)

Fuel Your Creativity



Swasaanth Sudhanthira (71) bagged the second position in the poetry writing competition (U-15) category on the theme 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', conducted by the Consul General of India, Dubai. He was presented with the award by Dr. Aman Puri, Consul General of India.

Extraordinaire de OOB



Varun Rawat
(Grade 12D)



Vidit Shah
(Grade 8B)



Shiva Srinivasan
(Grade 8D)

Under the aegis of **ACT Universal FZE**, an **interschool online Speech Competition** in English and Hindi, was held on **October 2, 2020** to celebrate the spirit of **International Non Violence Day**. During the event our own speakers delivered stellar performances with **Shiva Srinivasan (Grade 8D)** clinching **the 1st place** in the **English (Juniors) category**, **Vidit Shah (Grade 8B)** securing the **2nd place** in the **Hindi (Juniors) category** and **Varun Rawat (Grade 12D)** earning the **Jury's special recommendation** in the **Hindi (Seniors) category**.

FUTURE REBUILT



The duo - Shiva Srinivasan (Grade 8D) and Kiran Srinivasan (Grade 12) have been adjudged the second-place winners in 'A story by me – A competition for Writing and Illustrating Children's picture book' held by SPEA in the month of March, 2020. Their story, titled 'Future Rebuilt', highlighted the need for planting trees for a better and sustainable future.

Inquizitive Mindz!



The ebullient OOB Quiz team comprising of Pranav Rajesh Chilamban (10E) and Sreehari Sreejith (10D) emerged worthy winners in the online Inter School Quiz Competition conducted under the aegis of Science India Forum on 10 October, 2020. The theme of the Quiz celebrated the life and works of India's eminent scientist and the former 'People's President' Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam. Kudos to the Champions!

OOB MAKES A MARK YET AGAIN!





Conference of Parties Delegation - Pool C

Category	School Code	School Name	Winners
Best Delegation	SC-14	GEMS United Indian School, Abu Dhabi	Pranav Rajesh Krishnan Parth Dinil Candace Sara Ciju Michelle Ana Mathew Lakshmi Sanjay
Best Delegate	SC-33 SC-28	GEMS Cambridge International School – Dubai GEMS Westminster School, RAK	Maher Gidwani Gowrisankar Anilkumar
Best Drafted Resolution	SC-14	GEMS United Indian School, Abu Dhabi	Pranav Rajesh Krishnan Parth Dinil Candace Sara Ciju Michelle Ana Mathew Lakshmi Sanjay
Best Representation	SC-26	GEMS Our Own English High School, Sharjah Boys	Akhilesh Patil Joel Jiji Olassayil Shubhankar Ghosh Azhar Ahmed Joy Das





The 'School Conference of Parties', EXPO Delegation SCOPE 2020 saw OOB truly shine. Bringing home laurels along with their fine display of talent and skills, the team comprising of Akhilesh Patil (11B), Joel Jiji (12C), Shubhankar Ghosh (11B), Azhar Ahmed (10D) and Joy Das (11C), bagged the award for the 'Best Representation' and Alex Moby Philip (12B) secured the 3rd Place in the 'Story For Us' competition in the 'Group-2' category held as a part of the event.

THE GREATEST SERVICE IS THAT TO THE HUMANITY



A BIG SALUTE to our esteemed faculty member and social worker, Dr. Shabana Salim, for being recognized by NGO Darpan for her outstanding support and philanthropic work during the CoVID-19 pandemic.

“The need of the hour, serving the people”

Brilliance Redefined!



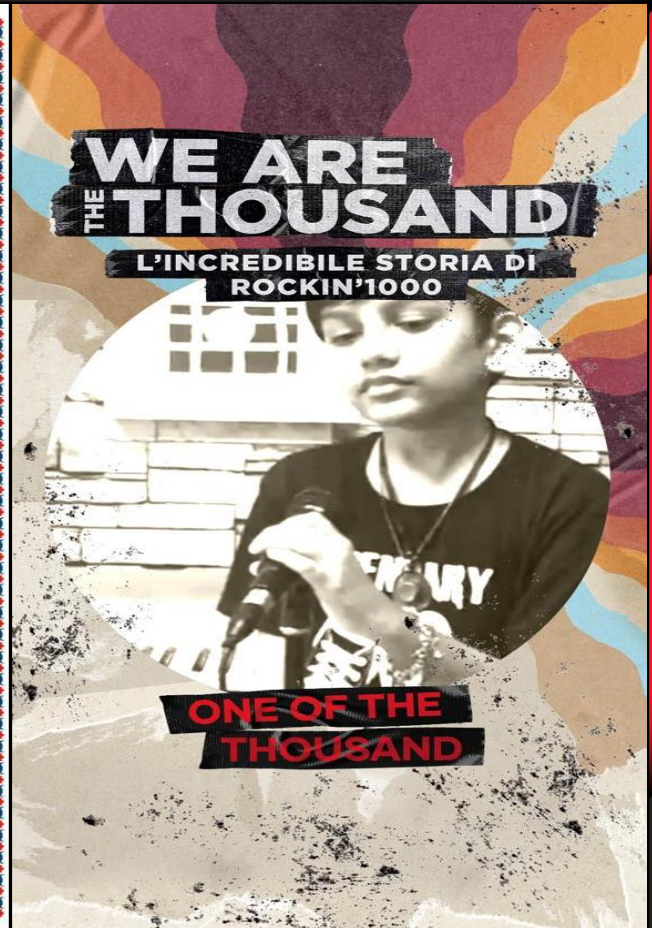
Ms. Nosheen Naeem has truly made OOB proud by bagging the 'Virtual Apple Award' for her brilliant efforts in making the e-learning based sessions fun-filled, interesting and engaging for her students. Well done Ms. Nosheen for going above and beyond...!

Far Beyond Excellence!



Hearty Congratulations to Ms. Vanessa Fonseca for achieving the GEMS Excellence Award for her outstanding performance during the Remote Learning Initiative.

Rockin'1000 GLOBAL GIG



Gaurav Jayaprakash(6F) was a part of the biggest virtual rock concert **Rockin'1000 GLOBAL GIG**. Streamed live on the 30th Oct 2020, this event marked the Silver Jubilee anniversary of Dubai's Global Village. The event also broke the Guinness World Records title for the **MOST VIDEOS IN A MUSIC MEDLEY VIDEO**.



EVENTS EXTRAORDINAIRE



SYNERGY!



The first ever virtual Talent Day was a huge hit with whole-hearted contributions in the form of a diverse array of exciting and engaging performances. It was a vibrant morning, filled with energy, enthusiasm, adventure and enjoyment where we certainly got to see the best from our very talented OOBites.

International Literacy Day



International Literacy Day was celebrated at OOB with great enthusiasm on 8th September, 2020. A plethora of fun-filled activities were designed to educate the young minds to emphasize the importance of a more literate and sustainable society. The students of the Secondary department created a short video to showcase the importance of literacy – a prerequisite for development.

SEWA DAY



SEWA is a universal concept, which involves performing an act of kindness without any expectation or reward. On the 27th of October, 2020, the kindergarteners celebrated the 'Sewa Day' expressing their gratitude by making lovely 'Thank You' cards and presenting hygiene kits to the support staff and the frontline workers. The little ones spoke about their understanding of doing good deeds without looking for a reward.

हिंदी दिवस



The students of Our Own Boys had the glorious opportunity to celebrate 'Hindi Divas' in the form of various interactive and engaging activities conducted by the Hindi Department.

*Knowledge of Languages
A Doorway To Wisdom*

SUSTAINABILITY REIMAGINED



The Primary Department celebrated the Sustainable Development Goals on the 13th of October 2020. It was a learning opportunity for the SDG explorers to enhance their knowledge, understanding, values and actions that would help create a sustainable world.

“...Better to get wisdom than gold...”

Life Skills 101



Life Skills Day was indeed a learning experience for the students of the Primary Department. The students were trained on a variety of skills like tying of their shoelaces, culinary art, wrapping a gift etc.

“...Skills we can take wherever we go in life...”

Primary Literary Fest



The Primary Dept. celebrated English Fest with great zeal and enthusiasm. The students enthusiastically participated in activities such as role plays, creation of comic strips, Book Tasting etc.

“..ENGLISH FOR LIFE..”

The Happiness Trail



The Primary School's brilliant initiative, 'The Happiness Trail', created a vibrant and joyful environment. The students enthusiastically participated in various fun-filled, enjoyable and enthralling activities like adventure journeys, lemonade making, puppet shows etc.

"Happiness is our greatest treasure & the best part is, there is no limit to it..."

GLOBAL CITIZENS @ OOB



Three of our proud OOBites Mayur Jhamnani, Shubhankar Ghosh & Smith Mahant received appreciation letters from Generation Global for their enthusiastic participation in the Generation Global Focus Group Discussion.

Generation Global Club Inauguration



On the 24th of September, OOB witnessed the virtual inauguration of its very own Generation Global Club. The inauguration was filled with excitement and discussion of some interesting and thought-provoking ideas truly upholding the club's motto – 'Navigating Difference through Dialogue'. The club members also had the unique opportunity to interact with the Chief Guest for the event, Ms. Fiona Dwinger, Project Manager at the Tony Blair Institute of Global Change in the MENA region, who extensively discussed about her work in the field and how dialogue has been making a significant impact on the lives of youth across the world.

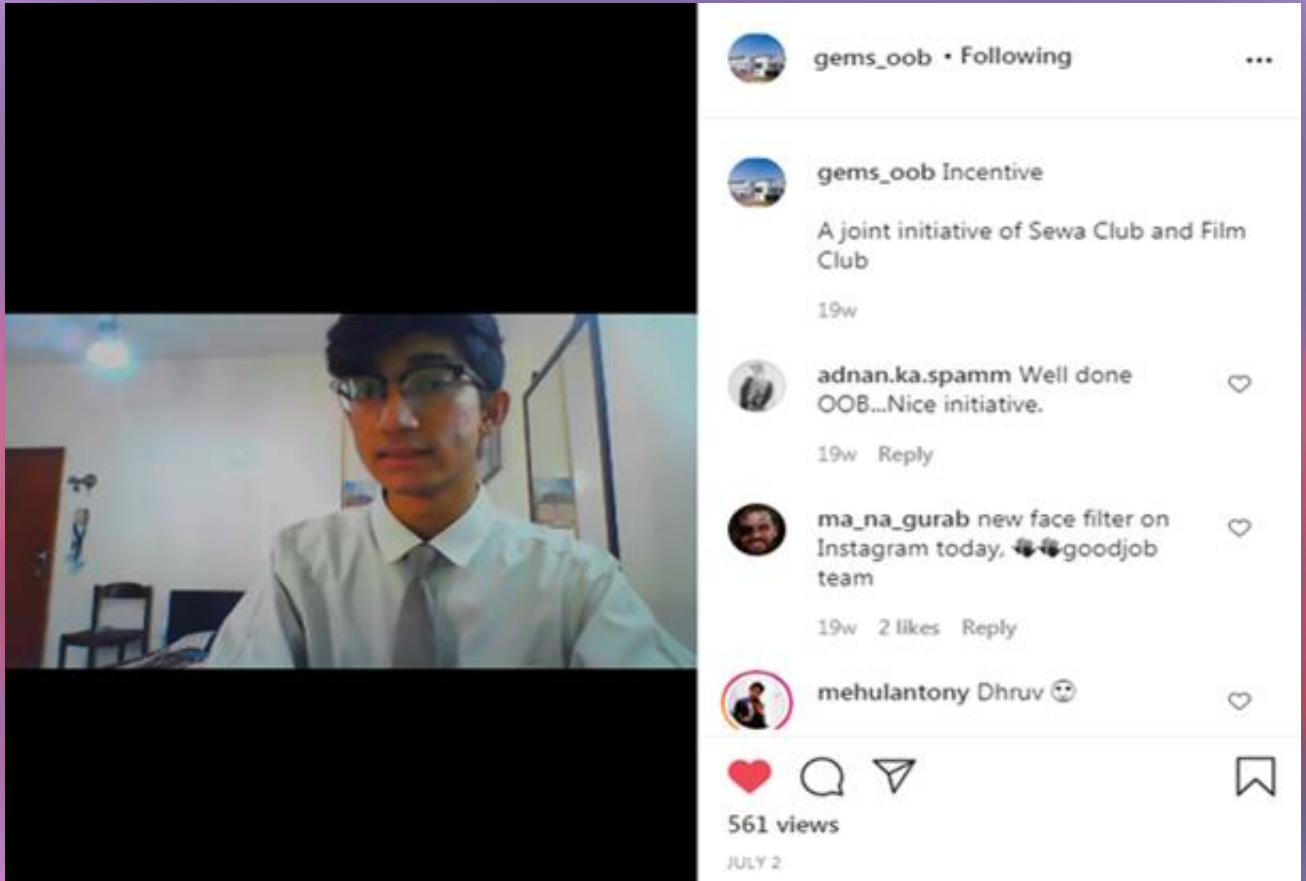
Math Club Inauguration



On the 27th of September, OOB witnessed the inauguration of the OOB Mathematics Club. The event witnessed the celebration of the fascinating subject and its various forms and applications in our daily lives. The event opened doors to a numerical world beyond our textbooks.

"...All Things Are Numbers..."

Boost Your Learning



As part of a **joint initiative** by the **SEWA Club** and the **Film Club** of the school, the members of these prestigious clubs got actively involved in the making of the short film, which focused on providing **effective study tips** for an **online learner**.

“...A Much Needed Initiative...”

Influencing lives, Impacting the future



The students at OOB had the opportunity to express the deepest and humble gratitude towards their beloved teachers on the grand occasion of Teacher's Day. The students acknowledged the hard work, passion and dedication of their teachers by hosting various exciting and enthralling activities.

... Teaching is the greatest act of optimism...



CREATIVE CORNER



My Unexpected Little Guest

As the saying goes - Happiness comes in small packages.

I've actually had the opportunity to witness this beautiful feeling last summer. My name is David and I love playing in the park. In the evenings, I go to Al Nahda park with my grandma.

One day, when I was at the park playing, I noticed my friends curiously looking at a bird. So, I asked my friend, Anagha, "What happened?". She said "This poor little baby bird is injured and cannot fly".

The bird looked hurt and was in pain thus was unable to move. It had white and grey feathers with beautiful orange eyes. I remember the weather was humid and felt sorry to leave the baby bird alone.

I asked my grandma if we could nurse the bird at home until it recovers. She agreed and we wrapped the little bird with tissues and brought it home. My parents too felt sorry for the bird.

This was the first time that I was nurturing a bird, but with my grandma's guidance, I learned to bandage its wound and feed him. I was happy to see him recovering and always looked forward to seeing him after school. I spent my time cleaning up his wounds and talking to him. The little bird longed to see his mother someday and I too wished the same for him.

Within a week, my little guest was able to fly again and it was time to let the him go back to his family. I knew, I would miss him terribly and so for one last time, I said to him, "I will always remember you. You will always be my guest [sobbing]".

David Shaun D'Silva (31)

My Grand Pa....

Grand Pa! Grand Pa!!
I love you Grand Pa!!
Your love is priceless,
You care for me endless!
You are with silver in your hair,
And gold in your heart,
Oh Grand Pa! You are so smart!
You give me all your time,
And know well how to make me smile!
Thanks for your concern and care,
And a promise that you will always be there!
You have the solution for everything,
For us you are the house king!
Never a moment of despair,
Oh Grand Pa! we are a perfect pair!
I want to be as amazing as you are,
Oh my Grand Pa! you are the rising star!!

- Ahaan Ahmed Khan (3D)

PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE

We should respect each other's uniqueness,
And forget their weakness,
A place where Love is king,
And Tolerance is also a thing.

Half of the morning sky holds the night,
As the moon in the darkness gives its light,
Colliding each day within the same heart,
The night of loss, and the day of freedom.

Sun and Moon in the same sky,
Co-exist for the world,
to brighten and mesmerize,
as part of the Solar System they are curled.

- By Ammar Quazi (8A).

Happy Teacher's Day

My hands shiver while my mind stutters,
as I attempt to define them,
in the finite words known to me.

As if I were, to describe the sun
watching over the innocent saplings
growing up to be the majestic trees.

The books tell me a story
awaiting to be transformed

into a wild & fascinating fantasy.

Your selfless smile, eternally divine
Along with the compassion you bestow upon me.

Enlightening the path we tread upon,
entirely unknown to me.

Preparing us all, prevent us from a fall

As the rudder guides the boat
to find its way through the vast seas.

Changing lives millions at a time,
'Cause we forever remain indebted to thee...

- Shubhankar Ghosh (11B)

A humble tribute...

कोरोना को हराएँगे

ओ कोरोना तू कहाँ से आया, सब कुछ हो गया पराया पराया।

तेरा आना किसी को ना भाया, मम्मी बोले हाथ धोए।

घर से बाहर कहीं ना जाएँ, सखा सहेली सब भूल जाएँ।

स्कूल की टीचर की याद सताए, नानी का घर हमें बुलाए।

शोपिंग के लिए मन ललचाए, बर्थडे फीका फीका पड़ जाए।

हम छोटे छोटे बच्चे कैसे अपना दिल बहलाएँ, तेरा भय इतना जो सताए।

कोरोना तुझसे नहीं डरते हम, हममें है तुझसे लड़ने का दम।

सोशल डिसटेंसिंग निभाएँगे, गुड सिटिज़न बनकर दिखलाएँगे।

सरकार के रूल्स अपनाएँगे, घर मे बैठकर तुझे हराएँगे

अपना जीवन खुशहाल बनाएँगे, कोरोना को हम हराएँगे।

है अडिग विश्वास, कोरोना को हम ही हराएँगे।

रुचिरा सिंह
प्राथमिक विभाग

ناموشی ایک بہترین ساتھی

حکمت کی باتوں میں سے ہے کہ حکماء اور علماء کا فرمان ہے :-

ناموشی کے سات ہزار فائدے ہیں جو سات کلمات میں جمع ہیں - ہر کلمہ ہزار فائدوں پر مشتمل ہیں -

1- ناموشی بغیر مشقت کی عبادت ہے -

2- ناموشی بغیر زیور کی زینت ہے -

3- بغیر سلطنت کے بیعت ہے -

4- بغیر دیواروں کے قلعہ ہے -

5- ناموشی فرشتوں کے لئے راحت ہے -

6- جو ناموش رہتا ہے اسکو کسی کے آگے معذرت نہیں کرنا پڑتی -

7- جب تک انسان ناموش رہتا ہے اسکے عیوب پر پردہ پڑا رہتا ہے - جب وہ بات کرتا ہے تو اسکے عیوب کھلتے ہیں -

حضرت سفیان ثوری (رح) فرماتے ہیں کہ میں کسی کو تیر کا نشانہ بناؤں اس سے بہتر ہے کہ میں کسی کو زبان کا نشانہ بناؤں -

حدیث پاک کا مفہوم ہے کہ جو شخص اللہ پر اور آخرت کے دن پر ایمان رکھتا ہے اس کو چاہئے

کہ بات کریں تو اچھی کریں ورنہ ناموش رہیں -

(Dr. Shabana Salim)



**IGNITING
CREATIVITY**

SHREYAS.B 6BA



Ashwin Sathish Kumar-5B



Akshaay Suresh -6E



Sreeram Praveen -5B



Avinash Prasad Mavanji -7A



Theophin Biju Joseph -7G



Nividh Nirmal 8 D



Smith

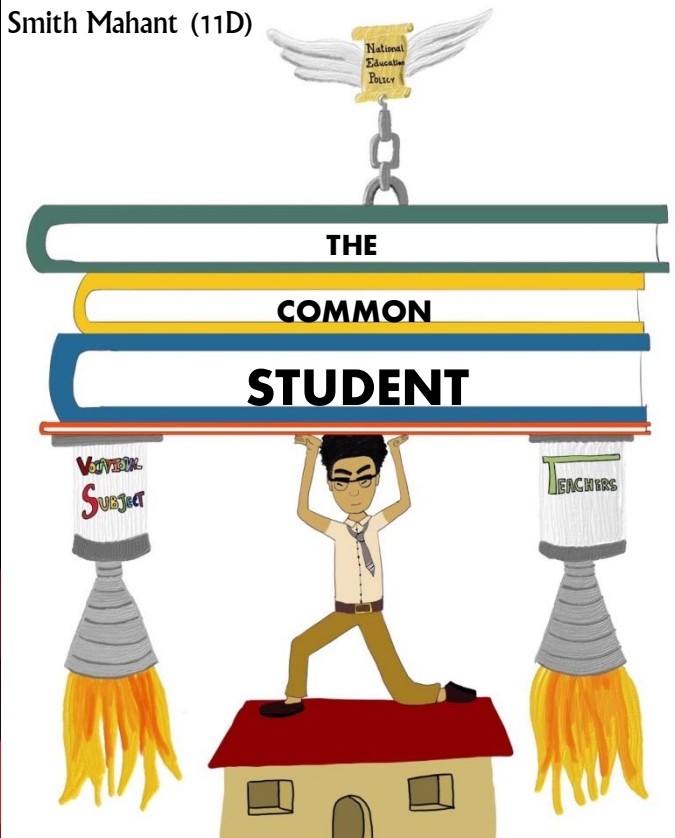


EXPRESSIONS



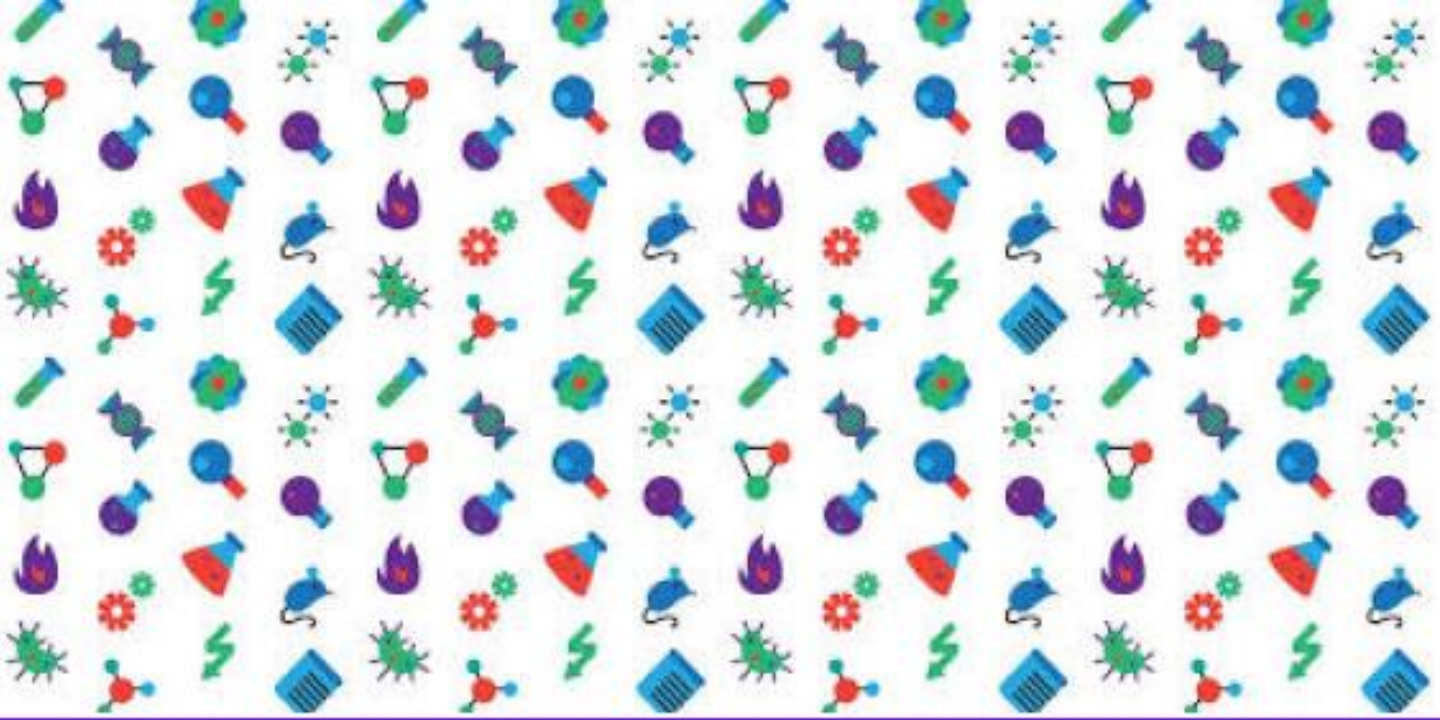
Please scan the above QR Code to view the fascinating creations of the members of The OOB Creative Artists' Club

Smith Mahant (11D)

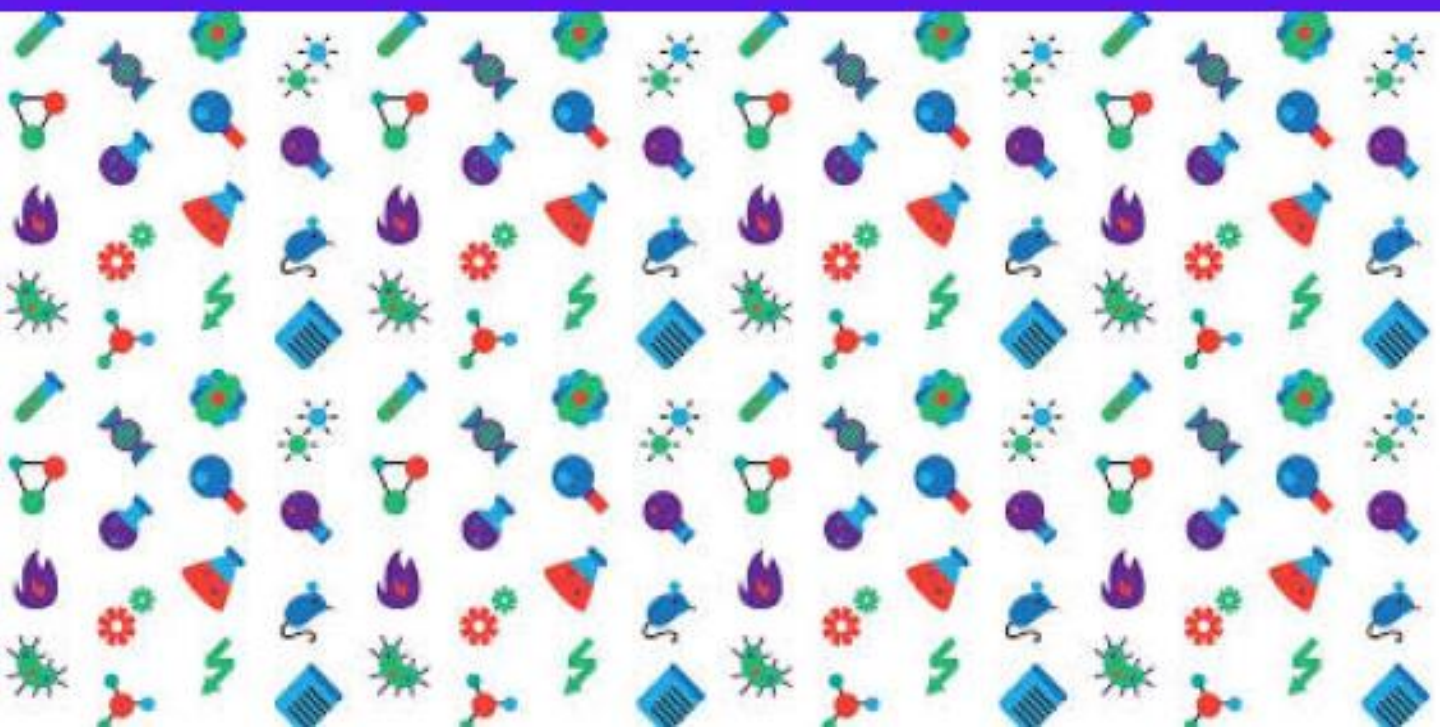


To send in your entries for 'The Bell', please mail us at:

newsletteroob20@gmail.com



MINDCEPTION



MINDCEPTION

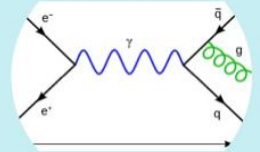
THE BELL

Mindception

Thought Provoking, Dazzling Ideas

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mayur Jhamnani of Class 11D is a quantum mechanics enthusiast. Through this column, he states his opinion on reality and the universe...

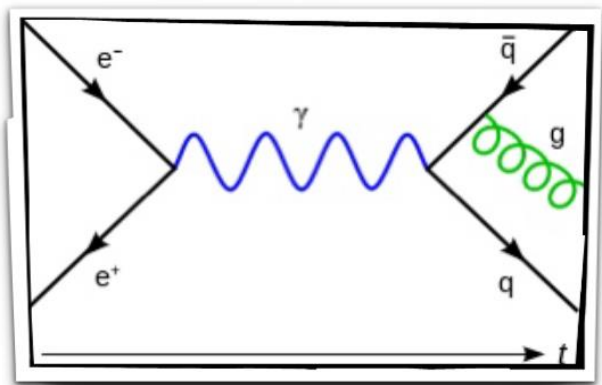


Defining Reality

Read this and you will be nonplussed on the striking similarities between Illusion and reality

Defining Reality

What is reality? How do we explore it...Let's give it a try!



Many a times, I try to reflect on the question that very simply asks, what is reality? Now, this is the very same question that scientists have tried rationing with, philosophers have tried reflecting upon and, religions have tried answering. All these three have funneled in all their thoughts, efforts and

time into a bizarre question like this.

Well, Quantum Physics has indeed come quite close to an answer. Apparently, the quantum can be defined as the smallest constructional unit of the universe, something that is common between everything, something that links us to the universe. Now, this form of physics is very unconventional with its ideas, In fact, it's built on the building blocks of uncertainty and probability. Say, for example the phenomenon of quantum tunneling in which a sub atomic particle like a proton can apparate from one position to another, similar to a person passing through a wall, and another one which is even more spookier: a sub atomic particle can spin in both directions, be in different positions at the same



Marathon at home

A beautiful illustration of something very few have tried...check out



Journey of a mask

Have you ever wondered over the journey of a mask..

time and have an entangled twin with opposite properties and I know that the list keeps getting weird!

Let us try to imagine a mobile phone. Now, in my mobile phone, the applications store is at the top left corner of the screen and the files folder is at the center. Does that mean, all my files are in the very center of the phone in that yellow folder? No, I suppose, because that icon is just a representation of the actual file location but for the next person that's the reality. If, from tomorrow your computer / any other device communicates with you in the binary language of 0s & 1s will you be able to? Apparently not, but that's actually how our computer stores our files.

Similarly, if a person has a set of eyes that can see the sub atomic particles, the world will be a different place for that very person, everything will change, even the way she perceives herself.

The phenomena of Quantum Mechanics that try to explain the reality are essentially not weird but it is our intuitive sphere that is limited. The fact of the matter is that we cannot interpret the actual reality much less than the adaptive reality that we are looking at. It's henceforth why reality is different for different people, living beings and organisms, because of the limitations of our intuitive sphere, our boundaries for exploring the reality differ and this difference carves out the world we see.

The concepts and functioning of the quantum behavior can be expressed mathematically because they essentially fit within its infinite framework. Speaking of which, it seems to be my duty to tell you that though mathematics is a framework used to depict the reality, it in itself is not reality, just like the map, which is not the territory, something to discuss next time I suppose.

'Quantum Mechanics is our ultimate approach to reality'

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Irfan Olasheri of Class 11A is a fitness freak and a fabulous narrator. He loves football and is also a social work enthusiast. Never go unprepared for a debate with him....Remember. For now, let's give him all ears.

Running a Half Marathon...At home

When you have the spirit, Nothing is Impossible

He writes to us.....

Dear Mindception,

Running a marathon is something that has always been on my to do list for ages. But it is something easier said than done. As the whole world is stuck indoors, I, just like anyone else was looking for different things to do and spend my time more productively.

One day I came across a video of a Chinese man running a marathon in his living room and I was really impressed by it and coincidentally this was the same time I came across an article in Khaleej Times about a stay at home marathon being organized in UAE by ASICS and Strava. Without any second thoughts I signed up. I am neither a super fit guy nor an experienced runner but I love challenges, and nothing is impossible. I did practice running in my living room a few days before the event and realized that running in your house is as comfortable as running anywhere else.

On the day of the race, I woke up early and started running by 6:30 AM, kept running, took many breaks and even attended an online zoom session while running(though I could not completely focus on the session). To be honest it was not easy and I eventually stopped once I completed the half marathon distance (22km). It felt great to have completed the half marathon distance that too in my living room. The one thing that I had learnt from this experience was that many things that we assume to be difficult or impossible or out of our league for that matter are actually not that difficult and that truly NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE



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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Shubhankar Ghosh, Editor in Chief of 'The Bell', of class 11B is a pioneering writer and narrator. His writing will most certainly create a unique image of things you had heard of but never planned to revisit. Hope I haven't missed anything out!!

The Journey Of a Mask

Have you ever wondered over the tedious life of a mere mask, well, if you haven't it's high time that you do.

Hey there! I am really someone who has become quite popular amongst many people across the world. Sometimes referred to as 'first shield' of protection I have many a time risked myself to save your valuable lives. But this was all not considered all that 'trendy' if it weren't for a few incidents taking place over the past couple of months. I was born in HUGE factory somewhere in Asia in November last year. I remember being packed in a box along with 49 of my other friends and were stacked up at the back of a supermarket since we were not really of much importance to the common public other than the nurses and doctors working in various hospitals and clinics in the city.

We lay where we were kept anticipating for someone to pick us up from the store, but our wait wasn't long. About 4-5 months after we were born, we happened to start hearing words like Corona, COVID-19 and pandemic on a regular basis which were often part of the discussions between the store workers. I and my friends were quite intrigued to know about what they meant. Were they the titles of some recent Hollywood movie? Maybe a new celebrity coming to town? We were all quite curious about it.



A few days later, surprisingly, we were arranged at the very front of the supermarket up for sale under the banner, written in big and bold letters, PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE. Apart from this, I also started noticing that the prices of many other products such as food supplies, toilet papers, hand sanitizers, disposable gloves, the masks had suddenly skyrocketed. It didn't take us long enough to realize that the world was starting to foresee a global pandemic- the CoViD19 pandemic.

Not long after, the manager of the supermarket received an order for a huge number of masks, gloves and other personal protective equipment. It was then that our journey as a mask – a potential savior of

mankind during the pandemic – really took off and I had the first glimpses of the world outside and was truly starting to realize my importance in saving millions of lives in the pandemic-ridden world...

Now, we were moved out of the retail store along with a consignment of 500 boxes of masks and shipped to a neighboring city to be used at the largest CoVID-19 treatment center in the region. I and my friends didn't have to wait long enough to jump into action. Soon after we reached the storerooms of the hospital, we were moved to the nursing stations where our box was thoroughly sanitized and opened. One by one all of us were taken out of the box and worn by all the doctors, nurses and other medical staff until FINALLY it was my turn. It was my turn to fulfill the purpose of protecting humanity from contracting such new-found deadly diseases, spreading only because humans themselves have always been playing with our beautiful environment, inviting their own destruction and demise.

I happened to land into the hands of one of the thousands of busy nurses, working day and night at the center to keep the patients safe and help them recover. She wore me as part of the protective equipment she wore regularly to prevent herself from coming in direct contact with the patients she treated. Being her final line of protection, I was fortunate enough to have a first-hand experience of her day to day activities. Throughout the day, there were many patients who had to be admitted, given the necessary attention and taken care of. The nurse was in-charge of treating the patients who didn't show any major symptoms of the virus but yet she did her best to protect herself while providing them with the adequate treatment. All the while, I definitely felt the disease-causing germs getting caught within the filters present inside me as I filtered the air for her to breathe. As I accompanied her around the center I was certainly astonished with the ways some had been adversely affected by the virus while others, like the patients the nurse was taking care of, were quite healthy and asymptomatic.

Later in the afternoon, when the nurse was relieved of her duty and permitted to go home she was finally able to get rid of all her protective equipment, including me, after which she thoroughly sanitized herself and set out for home. I, the pair of latex gloves, the protective gown and the plastic face shield which she used were then safely disposed off and transported to the nearest landfill like any other kind of disposable waste.

And that brings me to where I am today, lying in the landfill along with my other companions (we have become great friends now) who gave their best to protect one of the many frontline workers we see every day. Now, as we have been discarded, we practically are considered of no use and thus wait to perish and degrade over a long period of time, as we stay on this planet for many more years to come.



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