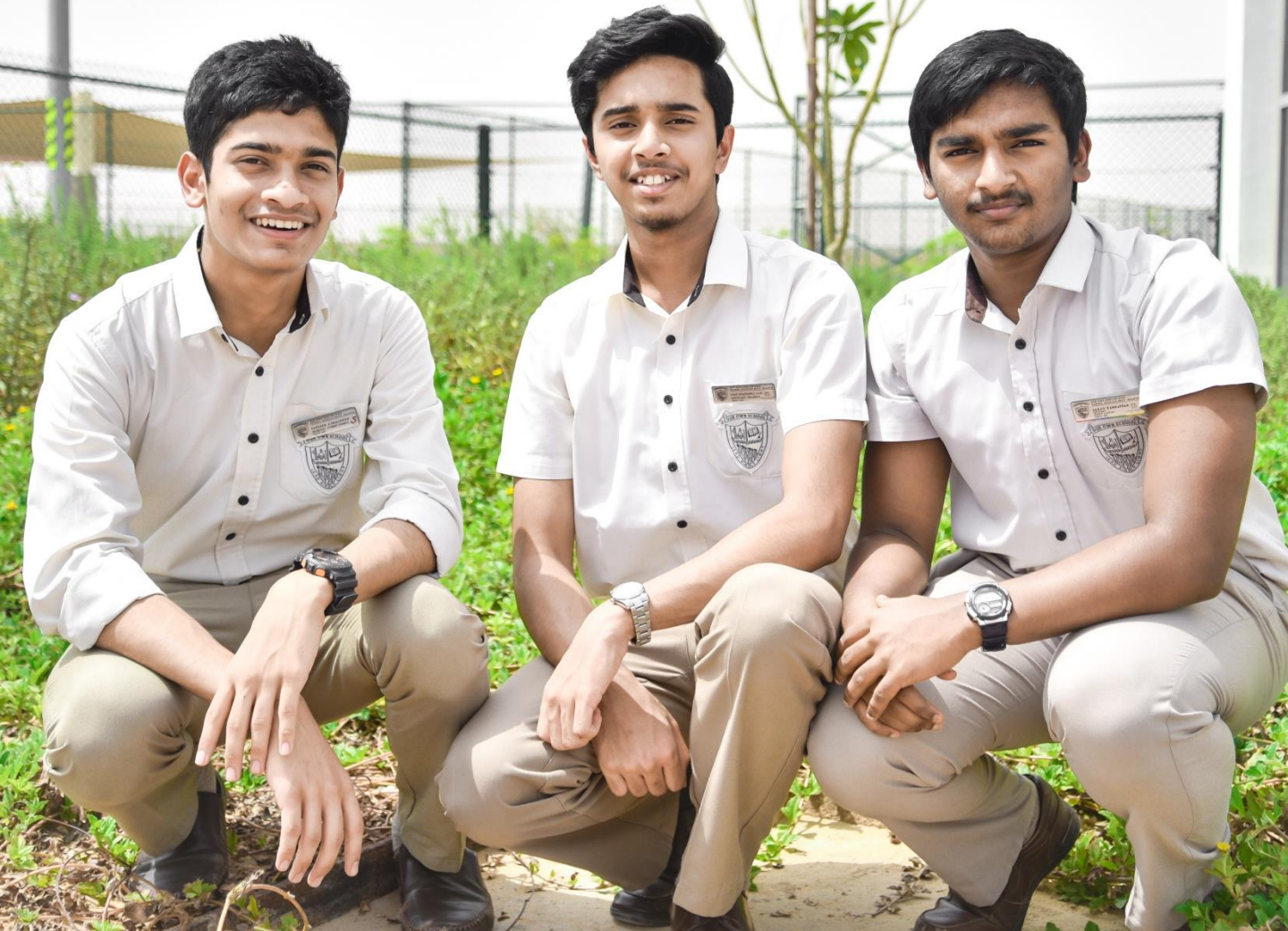




SCHOOL | EVENTS | INTERVIEWS | MINDCEPTION



THE DELL

Anticipated by students

Volume Four

Issue One (April-July)

THE DELL

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If anything, you'll see more paragraphs like these in this edition: words that arise out of the need to express emotions, share trivia, or rant.

Writing is definitely an art, however underrepresented it may be among art enthusiasts, at least in our school. The school does possess a decent batch of bibliophiles, many of whom I suspect have turned into closet writers. Indeed, one may expect to find more closet writers than, say, closet painters or closet musicians in any given group of people.

Arguably, writing is resource-intensive. It requires seamless patience and motivation. It requires the courage to scrutinise and evaluate one's own errors. Also, consider this: A canvas painter is limited to the boundaries of a canvas piece, while a writer may have enough words to fill a thousand books.

While the process of writing could be called out for being monotonous, tedious and potentially futile, it serves as a unique form of communication. The written word brings together like-minded souls, who could be separated by barriers that would never realistically permit their unison. While writers are mortal, their written words are not. You could be a teenager in the year 2086 silently nodding in approval to the works of an aged philosopher from ancient Greece. Their impactful words may last much longer in your heart than that groovy beat you heard last Thursday.

There truly is much more to writing than the arbitrary syllabi that are prescribed by educational institutes. So, if you ever feel the need to find yourself, write. If you ever crave to reach out to others, write. Most importantly, know that your writing brings together people you may never even meet, separated by space, time and social constructs, yet connected by thoughts, beliefs and opinions.

VOL. 4 ISSUE 1 • APRIL-JULY 2019

THE BELL

Official Newsletter

For The Students, By The Students, Of The Students



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A NEW DAWN FOR OOB

Thoughts on the cover

Change is much like an aurora. Within the purplish hues, one can always find the future.

As a student of OOB for the past 9 years , I can say with almost 100% certainty that change is something that I have experienced often . And it has always left me lying supine with a surprising amount of nonchalance that still gives me chills . But with the coming of the current academic year , I was wondering how much my life would change . The shift to the new campus dominated the whole two seconds of my effervescent attention span that the topic had managed to receive . I would attribute the clarity of my thoughts to the coffee I had drunk , but in reality , the sheer terror that infused my being led to my epiphany . It was a chanced thought that I will forever regard as the serendipity that served as the turning point in my views on change . We were the students of OOB . Our identity as a school , as colleagues and as peers did not lie in our location in Muwailah . ‘Our Own Boys’ was where we were . It was not a place in the physical world , rather , it was a piece of home that we carried around in our hearts . The move was simply a new chapter in a novel that is yet to be finished for years to come . It was . . . a new dawn .

SYED ABID ALI – 11C

MORE THAN BRICKS AND MORTAR

Thoughts on the cover

Thirty seven years prior to this moment in time, Our Own English High School, Sharjah- Boys' branch, evolved from plans and blueprints to a figment of reality. From that moment forward, OOB has continued to evolve, and to stand a glorious example to all its onlookers. Today, thirty seven years later, of which, I had the opportunity to witness eight, OOB has come a long way. Today, it stands at the heart of the Juwaiza suburb. This new change is unlike any other. For the foreboding eye, this presents a tsunami of new challenges, especially the fact that the campus is situated within what can only be called a desert. Many called it impossible. Many called it pointless. Some even called it quits. People foresaw an imminent 'cancellation of the switch'. Yet, here we stand, strong as a fortress, not only understanding but embracing the change, and looking forward to the bounty of the future. It is our hankering for true success. It is the discipline with which we lead our lives. It is the pride with which we proclaim our identity. Our Principal, Mr Srivalsan Murugan, once said, "*A school is not a structure of bricks and mortar, rather, it is the students that inhabit it.*" We did not leave our school behind. We simply gave it a new home, a new place, where it can shine brighter than the brightest shining light.

SHREYAS NARAYANAN SRIDHAR- 11B



'Helping the earth does not have to be a chore'
OOB aims to inculcate this style of thinking in the minds of our young student fraternity. Hence, Earth Day is an event celebrated annually on April 22. It is a day held to promote and show environmental awareness. On April 22nd, 2019, the students of Our Own took part in a variety of activities like making wind-chimes and making earth day badges which helped instil the value of 'Save Mother Earth'.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

Primary students recognized World Environment Day 2019, reflecting on the need to create a sustainable future. Our 'little learners' made best use of this opportunity to bring forth their underlying love towards the environment with great zeal.

GRADE 1

The first graders observed the steps on a video to sow seeds. They reiterated the learnt steps in planting the seeds independently in an old biodegradable egg carton.

GRADE 2

The second graders observed the steps on a video to sow seeds. They reiterated the learnt steps in planting the seeds in an old earthen pot independently.

GRADE 3

The third graders applied the demonstrated steps to sow the seeds to make their own mini green house with a reusable plastic ice cream cup.

GRADE 4

The fourth graders applied the demonstrated newly learnt steps to sow the seeds to make a mini green house with reusable plastic yoghurt can independently.



INTO THE PAST FOR A PERFECT ME

JACOB SAJI MODAYIL

GRADE 10

Every time I make a mistake, the words ‘Yesterday is a history, tomorrow is a mystery’, ring in my head. I also realise that I cannot change those errors. However instead of accepting them as mistakes and trying to run away from the repercussions, I should learn from them and examine where exactly I can better myself, right?

Cue the time machine. I would use a time machine to go back and scrutinize each and every one of my faults, learn where exactly

I could have done better, and make note of it for the future. I would keep doing this until I have essentially become impeccable in my actions. With a machine as great as this, I would be able to disprove myths about perfection.

But the fact remains, what keeps me going every day is that life sometimes throws thrilling obstacles in our path and there are chances of meeting someone interesting along the way. It’s like watching a new movie, every single day.

MOBILE PHONES AND THE SOCIAL CONTRACT

MOHAMMED AMEEN

GRADE 12

The number of cell phone users in the world today accounts to almost 61% of the global population. Now ask yourselves, ‘could you break up a text to reply to something your family asks and care to attend to their needs?’”

We clearly know the reason behind this, but we fail to act against this or we might deny the reality – We are preoccupied with the gadgets called mobiles. In the current generation, many believe they cannot live without their mobiles. Wherever we go, it tends to tag along. But we forget it is our social lives that are

bearing the brunt of this. We may spend 4 hours chatting but we might not talk with our family for even one. The coming generations are about to face a major problem if we don’t act against the growing screen addiction.

We must start by trying to bring change within our families by interacting with them in the real world. Social interactions have long been a positive influence on us humans, both mentally and physically. It lowers the chances of stress, depression and anxiety.

Interaction with Mr. Kailash Satyarthi



Kailash Satyarthi

On 10 June, 2019, 14 students from OOB were privileged to attend an interactive session with the Nobel Peace Laureate (2014), Mr. Kailash Satyarthi and his wife Mrs. Sumedha Satyarthi, held at GEMS Millennium School, Sharjah. The session was conducted by student panellists and a few student representatives from the eleven participating schools, each were given an opportunity to pose questions directly to Mr. Satyarthi. The students learned of his mission and the challenges he faced on a daily basis in his dream to end child slavery once and for all.



A visit to the Sharjah University



On the 29th of April, 2019, the students of class 12 had the privilege to visit The University of Sharjah for a seminar regarding the establishment of a new college in the field of 'Maritime Transport and Technology'. There was ample information provided about the course and students were given opportunities to clarify their doubts during the question and answer session. Overall, it was a fruitful experience for those deciding to pursue a career in Maritime Transport and Technology.



WILL THE YOUNG HAVE A VIABLE FUTURE ?

ANIRUDH SUNIL [EX-STUDENT]

It is a sad reality to understand the consequences of the current preposterous ways of lifestyle, that there may never eventually be a future for our younger generations to come. Since the future is big, there could be far more people in the future than in the present generation. This means that we need to help people in general, our key concern shouldn't be to help the present generation, but to ensure that the future goes well in the long-run. The Earth could remain habitable for 600-800 million years, so there could be about 7 million future generations, and they could

lead great lives. At the present rate with which humanity consumes the earth's resources we are creating an eminent demise for future generations. Unless we can overcome our prejudice beliefs, our self-righteous pride and find a cure for our disease of selfishness, the future seems bleak. Only when we start to help one another, cast aside all monetary value and put more effort into making sure we all have what we need to survive, will we begin to see that it is not a huge effort to assist and aid one another, but rather a blessing and rewarding effort.

THE PRISONER

ALEX MOBY PHILIP

GRADE-11

Crouching on a cold floor
Behind rusted bars
Lay a silent soul
Bruised, covered with scars.

Days back he left, to
Rebel he did dare
Now, run out of tears
In still, pungent air.

Half - clad lies he, in the
Iron cell of iron hands
Following Bapu's footsteps
To release his Motherland.

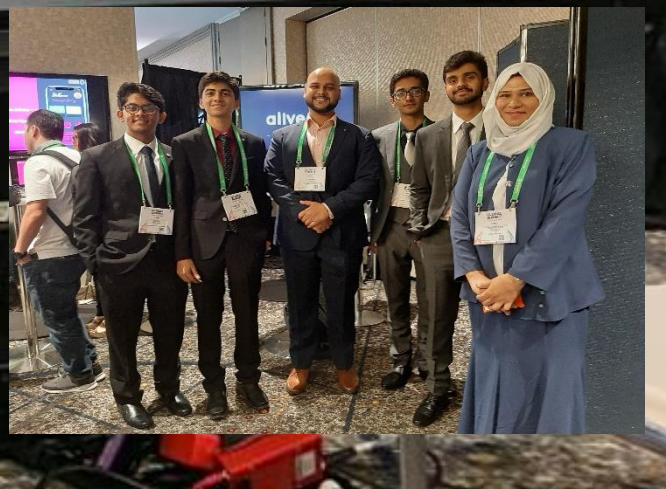
Tomorrow, against servitude
Its price, a painful solitude.

GLOBAL INNOVATION CHALLENGE

Team ALIVEAN consisting of 4 students namely Mrudul Mumtani, Vraj Rajpura, Ahsan Nayaz and Aryan Krishnan, on winning the GEMS Global Innovation Challenge, travelled to San Francisco, California, to attend a global summit held by The Singularity University based in Silicon Valley. The summit had participants from over 60 countries with more than 100 speakers and over 2000 attendees and 37 expo companies, including Google, Cisco, Microsoft, PepsiCo, etc. The team had been working on this product for the past 6-8 months. The boys have returned with contacts of potential investors and technical experts for their product, including companies such as Deloitte. The boys have raised the bar of excellence in OOB, by proving to everyone, age does not limit innovation.



Their product was a pair of glasses for the visually impaired, which had cameras mounted on them which captures visual information, sends it to a processing chip, running on AI, converts this visual information into audio information hence informing the visually impaired person about his surroundings. Not only does the device identify objects, with an added touch of machine learning, it is capable of adding objects to its datasets, and distinguishing between colours, faces and multiple objects. Lastly, in order to perfect indoor navigation, the team has been working with people at Singularity and other experts to include 'indoor mapping' to make this a fully-fledged and complete product.




BRAIN O' BEE 2019




On the 23rd of April, 2019, 17 students from our school headed to Brain O' Bee competition against 250 students from 13 other schools. **Siddique Adil (10E)** secured 2nd place, **Sai Sankeerth Sabanis (12C)** secured 5th and **Ammar Rashid(10D)** secured 6th.



OOB IFTAR



Zayd ibn Khaalid al-Juhani said: The Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said: “Whoever gives Iftar to the one who is fasting will have a reward like his, without that detracting from the reward of the fasting person in the slightest.”



On 16 May, 2019, OOB hosted its annual Iftar party in the Sheikh Zayed Multipurpose Hall for its staff, parents and of course, the student community. This beautiful tradition enables OOB community to get closer and revitalizes the feelings of helping one another and of generosity.



GRATEFUL

SAAHIL ANEEZ

GRADE 12

It was right after my 11th grade PT1 that I met with a near sports career ending injury. I was mentally prepared and physically fit for the first tournament for the past two years. After not playing when I was in my 10th grade, due to the board exams, I'd never been this thrilled for a basketball match. My whole life revolved around this sport, every song I listened to, every long walk I'd gone for and every single time I daydreamed: it was all about this game because this was all I had during my introverted phase.

Right after the half time, I tore my right ankle's ligament in a very messy rebound for the ball.

My teammates came-up to me to help me get up so that we

could get our well deserved win that we had all been waiting for, but I couldn't. I couldn't feel anything from my right ankle to my toes. They had to carry me off the court and later we went on to lose the match.

After the XRAY was taken the doctor told me that I may never be able to play the same way again and that 'this could be it'. Those four words were enough to shatter a child's dream of becoming something big in life.

The next few months were an absolute disaster for me as I couldn't cope up with all that had happened to me, lying down at home, restless, crying and cursing myself for this whole tragedy.

When I was finally able to walk I realized that this injury could have been one of the greatest things that ever happened to me. I started finding and trying out new hobbies, socializing with people and actually made some friends of my own. All of these changes were new to me as I used to think that basketball would be enough to keep me occupied my entire life.

This injury made me realize that there are equally greater things out there in this world and it was all a simple way of redirecting me to it. It was just a way of taking me to a path that I never thought I would take and to show me that there are things that are more rewarding, there are things that are more fulfilling and there are

things that will carry you further for your whole life.

No matter how bad life gets, we're never put in a situation that we cannot overcome.

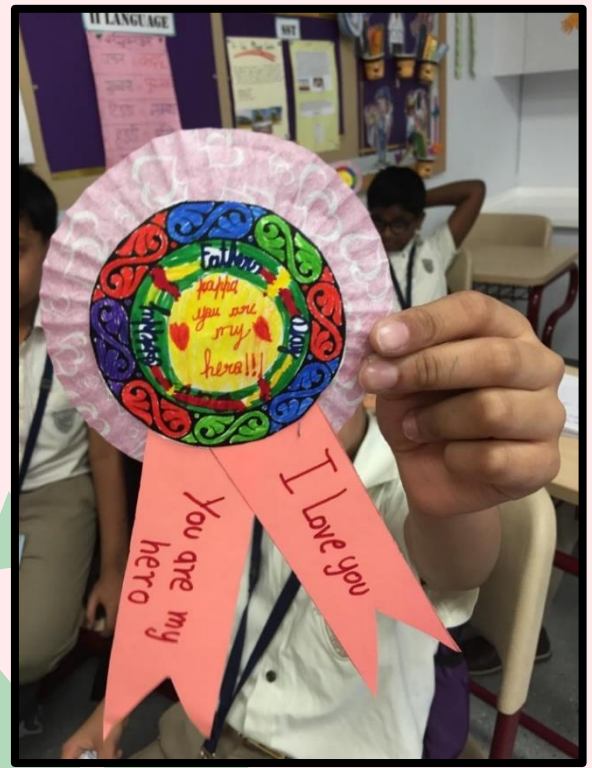
There's never really a reason that you cannot overcome and that you can't find a way to put those pieces back together. What's happened, has happened and there's nothing one can do about it but it's our decision to either sit and weep and wail, thinking about our weakest spots and incidents or, to hold on to it and mend them in a way that makes us much stronger for us to come back on to our feet. That's what I believed in and now I'm in a much healthier and better state than I've ever been before and I'm still aiming for that win.

Father's Day @OOB

"My father didn't do anything unusual. He did what dads are supposed to— **Be there, No matter what!**" - Max Lucado



The students of the Primary department took full opportunity of the day to express their gratitude to their dads with all their heart. Students undertook crafts such as making ties, making Father's Day cards and tracing their palm prints on paper as signs of love to their dads.



Things I ❤️ about my Dad

1. When you play with me
2. When you make pizza
3. When you take me out
4. When we wrestle
5. When you sing silly songs

Hag Al Laila

The annual event was celebrated on 18 April, 2019 by the Arabic department headed by Ms. Samira (Arabic Supervisor and HOD). The event is celebrated in the middle of Sha'aban, the eighth month of the Islamic Hijri calendar.

The KG play area was decorated as per the event. The program began with the marching of students along with their teachers along the corridors of the school. They were dressed in beautiful UAE traditional attire & sang a special poem of the event.

Sweets were distributed by the School Management Team to the KG & Gr. 1 students. Goodie bags were given to the SMT & the event management team. The team also went across to Sharjah Indian School to celebrate the event. The smile & joy of the staff & the students proved that we are a 'Happy Happening School'.

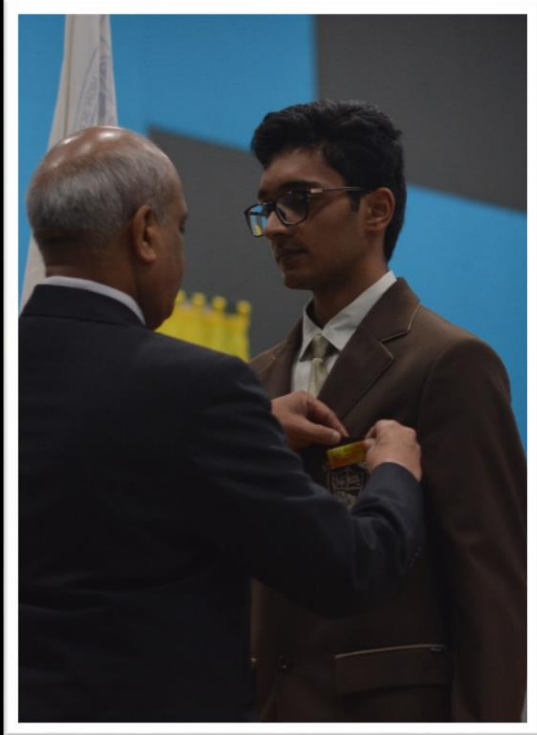
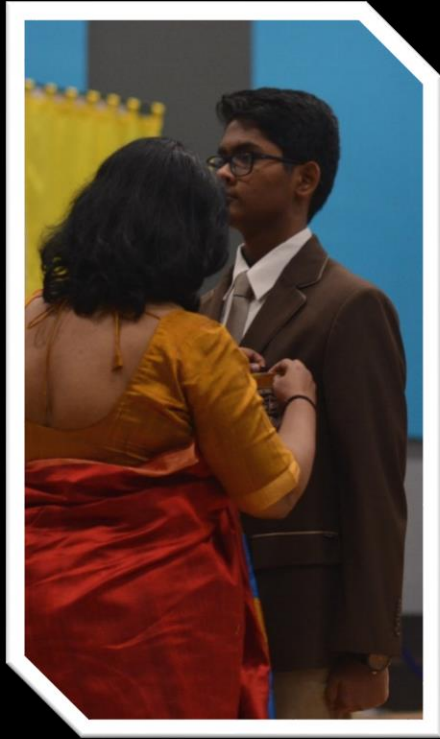




PREFECTS' INVESTITURE

The young leaders of OOB were formally inducted into the prestigious Prefectorial Board with The Prefects' Investiture Ceremony for the academic year 2019-2020, held on Tuesday, 14th May, 2019, for seniors and Wednesday, 15th May for juniors. The event was graced by the presence of an august gathering, including members of the Senior Management Team, alumni, parents and students.

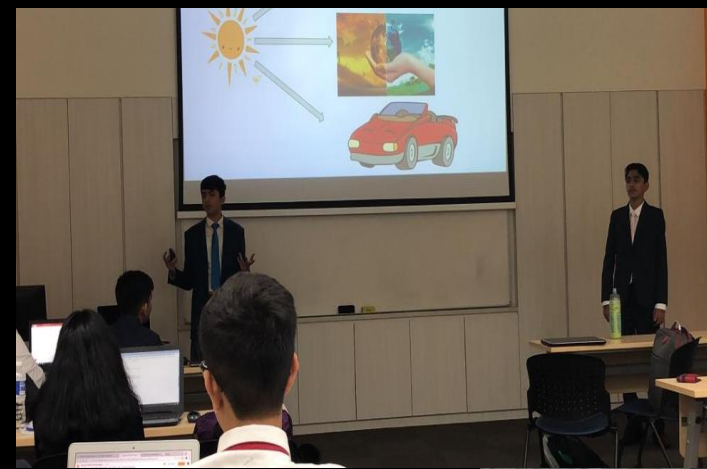




G.R.I.P

GLOBAL RESEARCH IMMERSION PROGRAMME

Om Gupta presented his Global Research Immersion Programme project to professors from the renowned National University of Singapore and Nanyang Technological University at Singapore. His project was on the topic 'Heat in the UAE'. The project was based on the 'Design Thinking' process and they were evaluated on all the steps they had taken during the project, such as, identifying the problem and also on their final prototype, an event organizing app called the 'Socializer' which provided incentives to families in the UAE to organize social events.



BALL AT MY FEET

SOMIL JAGETIYA

GRADE 12

Football is a beautiful sport played between two teams, lasting for ninety minutes.

The two teams consist of eleven players each. Each team tries to outplay the other by scoring more goals. In the end, the team with the most goals wins.

Football is played across the entire world. However, it's more prominent and famous in the European countries. They play the highest level of football.

Their level of football is as high as the sky where one mistake can cause havoc and the opposition jumps on them like a cat that pounces on a rat.

European football is very professional.

The most competitive four major leagues are the EPL in the UK, LaLiga in Spain, Bundesliga in Germany and The Serie A in Italy.

The EPL is known to many as the 'toughest' league and it is very hard to grow there as a player. Players are often sent on loan from these English clubs to the other leagues in order to gain experience and then come back to cause a significant impact on the teams.

Football teams also hire managers, whose job is forming team tactics and winning championships. They stay on the touchline and guide their team throughout the game.

The hardest job in the football field is that of the referee. If he makes the wrong call, he is criticized. There has been an introduction of VAR to the footballing world. It stands for video assistant refereeing. It uses technology to make the right calls. However, it causes lengthy delays and breaks the flow of the match leading to frustration among the crowd and players. It requires utter discipline, dedication, motivation, athleticism as well as guidance to reach the players level. They all have inspiring tales which propel you reach your goals and

make your legacy. Even if your team is 0-2 down until the 90th minute, there is a chance for a comeback. That's the beauty of the sport. You never give up. It has taught me that perseverance, consistency and hard work pays off every time. Each time you get injured, you make yourself stronger. Each time you lose a match, you change your tactic. A football game can teach you everything about life. For me, it is not just a game. It is emotion, pure emotion. Every touch of the ball or even a magnificent skill move can make me go crazy. For my favourite team, I am ready to stay awake late at night to watch them play.



ANNUAL PRIZE DAY 2019





Earning laurels is an achievement, keeping them is success. Our Own Boys' has proven that tenacious hard work gives birth to exemplary results. The Annual Prize day was held on the 30th of May, 2019 to commemorate the efforts of students in their annual examinations. Vice President of Education, Mr Michael Güzder, was the Chief Guest for the event. The subject toppers, Six-Ace Scholars and School toppers were felicitated. Seven outstanding teachers were also conferred upon the prestigious GEMS Teacher Of The Year Award.



ASYMMETRICAL SYMMETRY

ARYAN SHARMA

GRADE 11

What is wrong or right does make a difference... not just about the point of discussion but also in our view of everything else. Everything else? Well, it does sound pretty vague. Let's take a deeper look. Say your parents are insistent on you paying a visit to your relatives, however, you aren't interested because you have a lot of school work to do, or you have to study for an important test. But you haven't met them in a very long time, so your parents aren't really buying into your excuses. From one viewpoint- your parents are right. From another- you are. When we make decisions we forget to consider all the various sides to it. We do what's right for us without ever considering how much it can affect others. We look at all the asymmetrical halves of situations and try to remove the grotesqueness and try and convert it all to symmetry. We tend to overlook how much the symmetry might be affected, hence, causing the current circumstances to become more lopsided. So, we are simply caught in an endless loop of symmetry and asymmetry. Eventually, we give in and stop doing our task without ever wanting to go back to it again.

Say you have a dilemma of choosing between two career options- a business or a simple 9 to 5 job. If you are a bit of an adventurous person, it leads you to choose business. But say you have had experiences from your past and don't want to risk it with new ventures- you choose the job. The average human tends to look at these factors and make their decision. But is it really limited to what is mentioned above? The answer: not always. There's much more to business than just risks. You have to have a high sense of responsibility and judgement. One must be ready to sacrifice all luxuries and not even get paid at the beginning. Moreover, you have to embrace the fact that businessmen have no retirement age. You need to either find a successor to your company or shut it down altogether! Let's look at the other side of the dilemma- the job. Nothing to lose, right? Except for the fact that you aren't your boss and you have to rely on him to approve your leave. Your salary is reduced for every leave you take, except for your annual vacation. After a certain point in time, you aren't able to think outside a certain spectrum- either professionally or financially. The scrutiny of all the different perspectives and approaches to a certain incident is what we must do before taking a decision. Furthermore, we must carefully sort out the positives and negatives of all our potential actions and then make a decision. And remember this - your decision can NEVER be a 100% right for everyone.

GENIS
EDUCATION



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