

GEMS
EDUCATION



**THE
MOD
ERN
ITE²⁰₁₆**

A GEMS Modern Academy
Publication 2016



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EDUCATION

جيمس مودرن أكاديمي



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النشيد الوطني

عيشي بلادي عاش اتحاد إماراتنا
عشت لشعب
دينه الإسلام هديه القرآن
حصنتك باسم الله يا وطن
بلادي بلادي بلادي بلادي
حماك الإله شرور الزمان
أقسمنا أن نبني نعمل
نعمل نخلص نعمل نخلص
مهما عشنا نخلص نخلص
دام الأمان و عاش العلم يا إماراتنا
رمز العروبة
كلنا نفديك بالدماء نرويكم
نفديك بالأرواح يا وطن



The National Anthem

Live my country, the unity of our Emirates lives
You have lived for a nation
Whose religion is Islam and guide is the Quran
I made you stronger in God's name oh homeland
My country, My country, My country, My country
God has protected you from the evils of the time
We have sworn to build and work
Work sincerely, work sincerely
As long as we live, we'll be sincere, sincere
The safety has lasted and the flag has lived oh our Emirates
The symbol of Arabism
We all sacrifice for you, we supply you with our blood
We sacrifice for you with our souls oh homeland



The Late Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan

First President of the United Arab Emirates







His Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan

President of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Abu Dhabi







His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum

Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Dubai







OUTSTANDING

OUR 5TH IN A ROW!

DSIB INSPECTION RESULTS

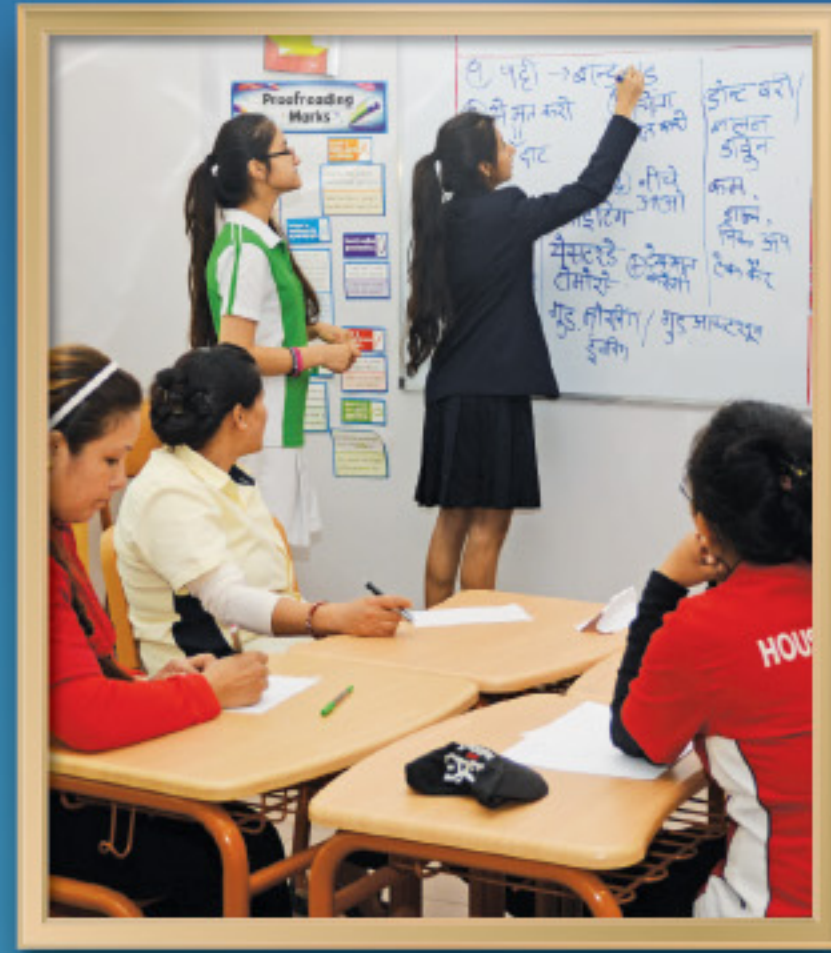
GEMS Modern Academy | Rating: **Outstanding**

Percentage of Judgements rated Outstanding: **84.2**

Students readily tackle intellectual challenges, collaborate effectively and take responsibility for their own learning. They have enquiring minds and are exceptionally able at establishing links between learning and real life situations, resulting, in a coherent, widely extended learning experience.

Students' behaviour is exemplary throughout the school. Respectful and considerate relationships between students and staff are evident. Their appreciation and understanding of Islamic values and of the culture and history of the UAE is very highly developed. They show tolerance and understanding, appreciate their own rich cultural heritage and those of other societies and cultures.

Teachers create environments in which learning proceeds at a challenging pace and enables all groups of students to experience success. The curriculum meets all requirements and is very successfully supplemented by a broad programme of activities involving environment protection initiatives and social outreach projects. The music, dance and performing arts activities led to stage performances of near professional standards.



The school promotes an ethos whereby students' well-being, personal development and academic progress are closely monitored. Trusting relationships and secure systems ensure that students receive outstanding personal and academic support and guidance. Careers guidance takes account of students' aspirations and abilities and provides a wealth of information about possible career paths.

The school has a highly inclusive ethos and parents are very appreciative of the formal and informal contact they have with the school. Parents are delighted with the high quality of personal support provided by the school.

THE INSPECTION IDENTIFIED THE FOLLOWING KEY STRENGTHS:

- Very high levels of attention given to each student in both personal and academic fields.
- Performance on external examinations and outstanding academic achievement allows students to pursue their personal aspirations and career goals.
- The commitment, dedication and devotion of our students contributes to their dynamic learning environment.
- Clarity of vision drives the senior leadership team to set appropriate targets to meet current national development priorities.
- School leaders have a detailed understanding of the importance of innovation in the context of the UAE's National Agenda for innovation in education.

FOUNDER'S MESSAGE - 2016

Every day, in our schools, we open young minds to ideas and possibilities. Our students' achievements speak to our success in helping them unlock their potential. As educators then, we have but one direction to move towards – from great to outstanding... and beyond.

Illustrate by example, the qualities we seek to equip our students with, to demonstrate leadership and commitment every step of the way. Empower yourself – own and possess your purpose to be outstanding in every respect. Take calculated risks and push boundaries, knowing that this is how we will grow.

You have it in you. There is exceptional leadership and drive in our schools and I believe that we are well on our way to achieve our purpose. Let's go beyond outstanding...our future awaits us.



Sincerely,

Sunny Varkey

Founder and Group Chairman,
GEMS Education

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Sunny Varkey'.

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE - 2016

Every year as I pen my message for the Modernite, I reflect with both pride and joy on what the school stands for. As Modern continues on its path to excellence, I cheer the team on and celebrate their achievements. The happiness and wellness quotient of a school lies in the wellbeing of its children and teachers. It is important for me to know that along with the children in their care, the senior management is keeping our staff happy and healthy.

Plutarch famously said, "Character is long-standing habit". Modernites have made a habit of excelling at whatever they do, and this stems from perseverance and hard work. Teachers strive to inculcate the right values to keep children grounded even as they spur them to reach new heights. Our parents are our strength and our biggest ambassadors. They appreciate our mission and cooperate wholeheartedly for they know their children are happy, engaged, challenged and valued.

I wish the Principal and her team a fulfilling year ahead. May 2016-2017 be a tremendous year of awesomeness!

Sherly Varkey

Director
GEMS Modern Academy



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Every morning we feel privileged to welcome our children, share their imagination about cloud formations, hear their accounts of the latest story book they are reading or just sharing birthday chocolates and sometimes their dreams....

We cherish those moments of real conversation, as this century has seen the remarkable merging of man and machine, coupled with rapid innovation. Drop into one of our morning assemblies and you will probably hear me say that I am more and more convinced that our mobile phones and tablets are now extensions of our limbs! What is the future are children are heading towards.....will there be too slim a distinction between the biological and the mechanical?

Our role as educationists in such a global climate is challenging and exciting. For despite our evolution as professionals, the core of why we do what we do remains steadfast and our commitment to it, resolute.

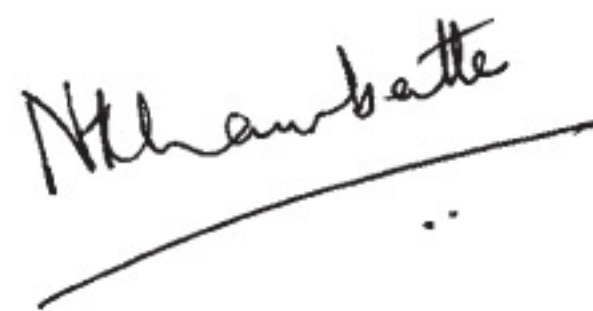
At Modern, respect, empathy and character development are central components of our classroom instruction, as we see a direct link to leadership qualities and good citizenship. Shake hands with our pupils, engage them in discussion or simply ask them to guide you down our hallways and you will notice that they exude a quiet confidence that only comes from a compassionate core.

I lead a team that always puts the children first. Every activity you see reflected in these pages is directed towards nurturing a generation that can strike a balance between head and heart. With the active support of our parents, who are sensitive yet exacting and the professional input from our corporate colleagues, we feel equipped to guide the children in our care. The constant backing provided by Mr. and Mrs. Varkey gives us the confidence to take on any challenge that comes in the way of our vera causa – our children's wellbeing.

Sincerely,

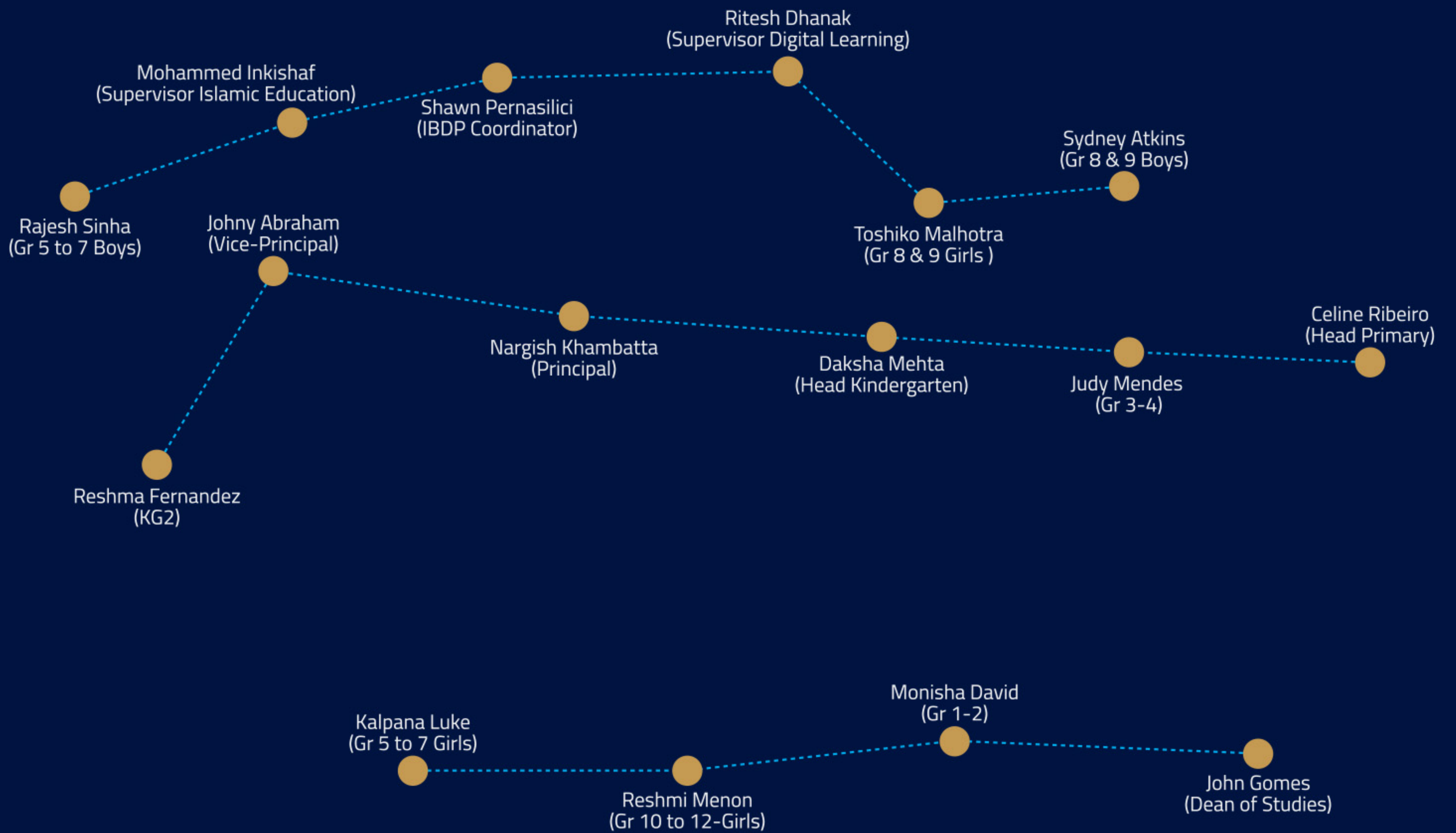
Nargish Khambatta

Principal
GEMS Modern Academy

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nargish Khambatta". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line. There are two small dots below the end of the underline.







SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

NOT IN PICTURE



Editorial Team

SPIRIT OF MODERN

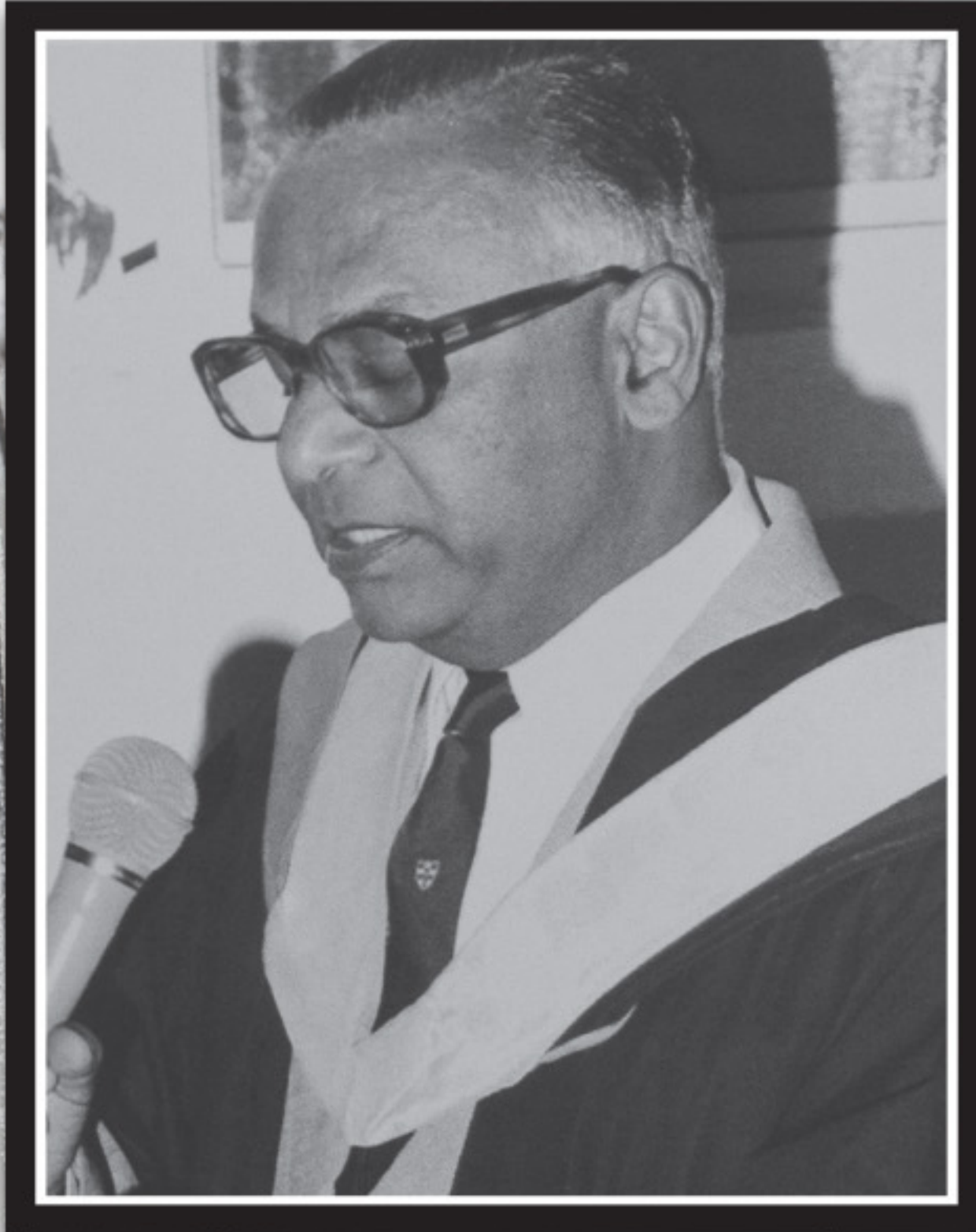
Every school has a story – a vision, a guiding light that gives it purpose, direction and its unique ethos. Modern's story is as vibrant as a colourful tapestry with threads of empathy, excellence, innovation, adventure, sportsmanship, and critical inquiry. Each thread is a strong life-line binding every Modernite as they experience life in a school like no other.

Much happened at Modern this year with the school as well as with many individuals making strides in their collective and personal journeys. It is with great pleasure that we present this edition of 'The Modernite' to give you a fleeting glimpse of the 'Modern Experience'.

Nithin Narayanan
Sydney Atkins
Anjalie Thomas
Andrew Hartnett
Niranjan Vaswani
Falguni Ashar
Aashray Swarup







Mr. A.T. Balraj



Mrs. B. Barman



WE MISS YOU...

“To live in the hearts of others is not to die.”

The firm yet kind Mr. Balraj was Modern’s founding Principal. He is remembered as a father figure who shepherded the first flock of five teachers at a time in which Dubai was a far cry from the city we now know. Mr. Balraj ensured that every staff member and each student was looked-after. He was a confidant, friend and guide to all who knew him and set high standards for the school. It was only due to his persistence that Modern was certified and affiliated to the ICSE board in 1989.

Mr. Balraj was an inspiration and will missed by the many individuals for whom Modern has been home, since it began in 1987.



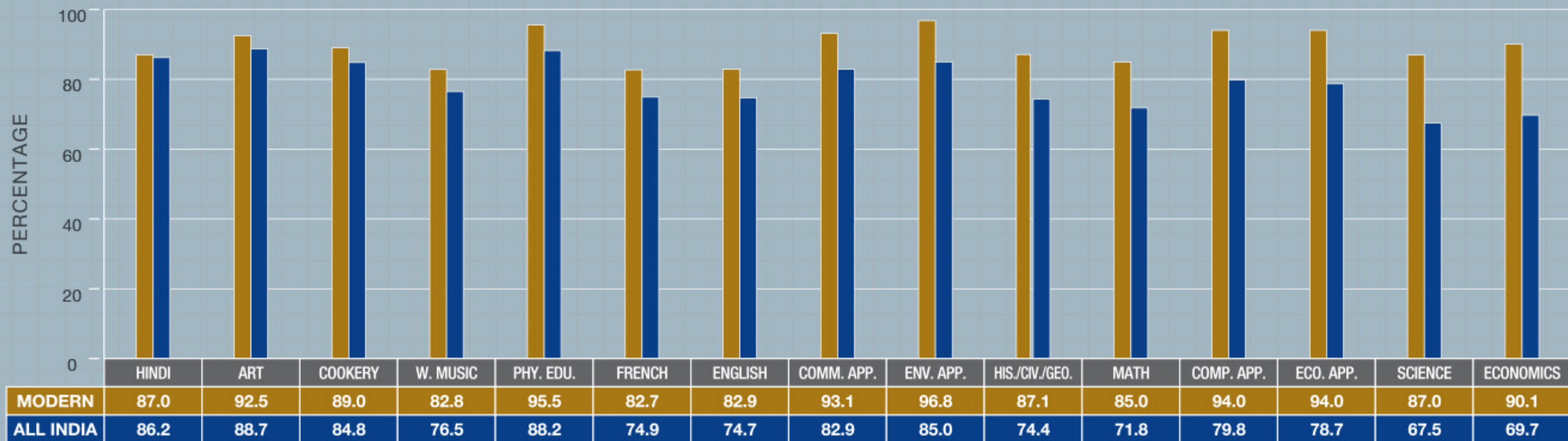
There was always a twinkle in her eyes and good cheer in her voice. Smart, intelligent, fun-loving and ‘bubbly’ (in fact, that is the name by which most people knew her), Mrs. Barman was loved by the students and her colleagues. She joined Modern initially in the Primary School and then went on to become a senior History and English teacher. As House Mistress of Aquila Mrs. Barman was involved in various school activities, especially Debate and Elocution. She was also appointed Middle School Supervisor for Girls and remained in the role till she left Modern in 2006, due to illness.

Mrs. Barman, will live on in the hearts of her loving family, many students and the wide circle of friends whose lives she touched.

Mabrook Team Modern!

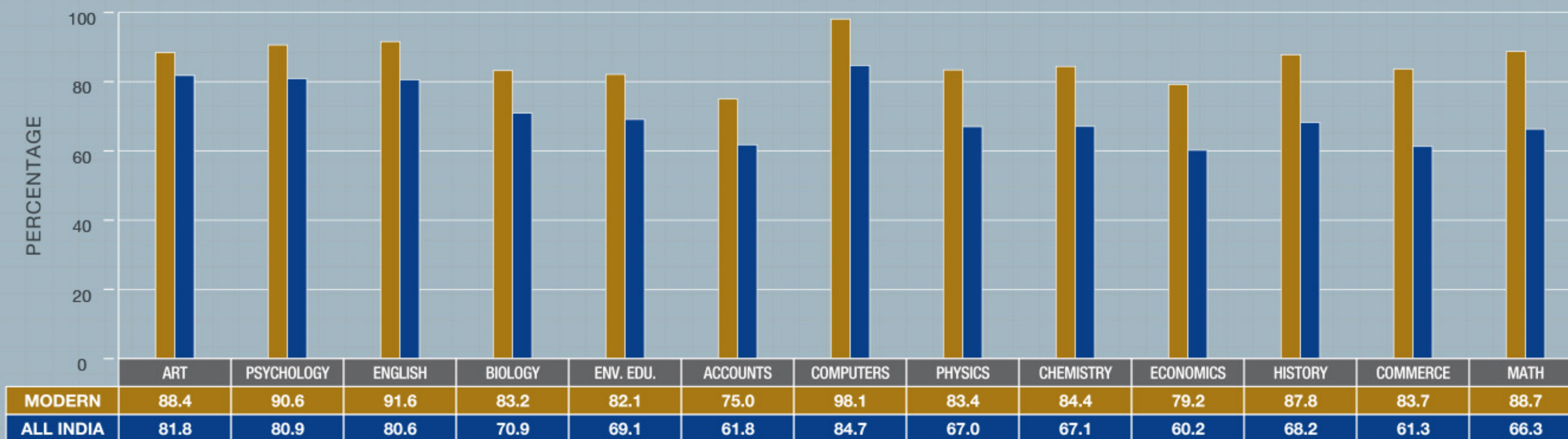
COMPARISON OF MODERN'S AVERAGES WITH ALL INDIA
ICSE (GRADE 10) 2016

■ MODERN ■ ALL INDIA



COMPARISON OF MODERN'S AVERAGES WITH ALL INDIA
ISC (GRADE 12) 2016

■ MODERN ■ ALL INDIA



"Our Outstanding results are a testimony to the collective effort of our students, teachers and parents - a true celebration of the essence of education where co-curricular activities and academics merge to shape the personality and charcter of our wonderful students."

- Nargish Khambatta

ICSE & ISC Results

SCHOOL TOPPERS



ICSE-Topper

Jagrit Relli

97.80%



ISC-Science Topper

Arundhati P. Kalyan

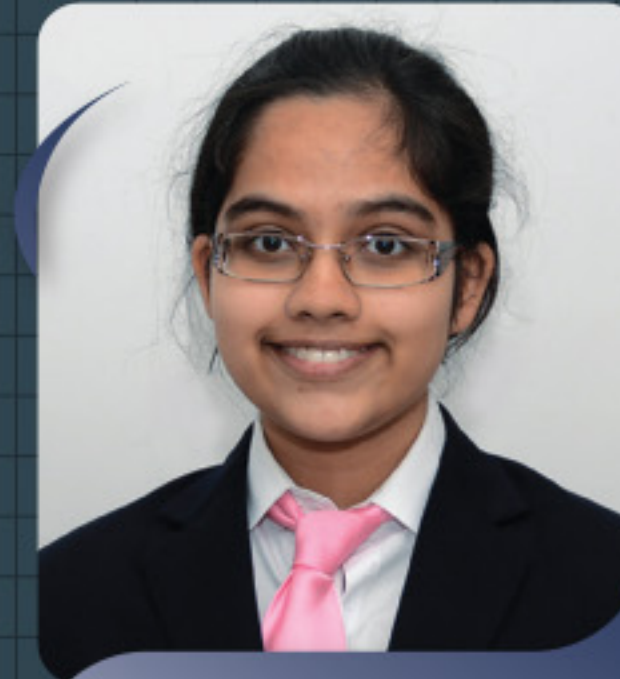
98.75%



ISC-Science Topper

Pranathi Mahesh Rao

98.75%



ISC-Humanities Topper

Anjali Ashok Menon

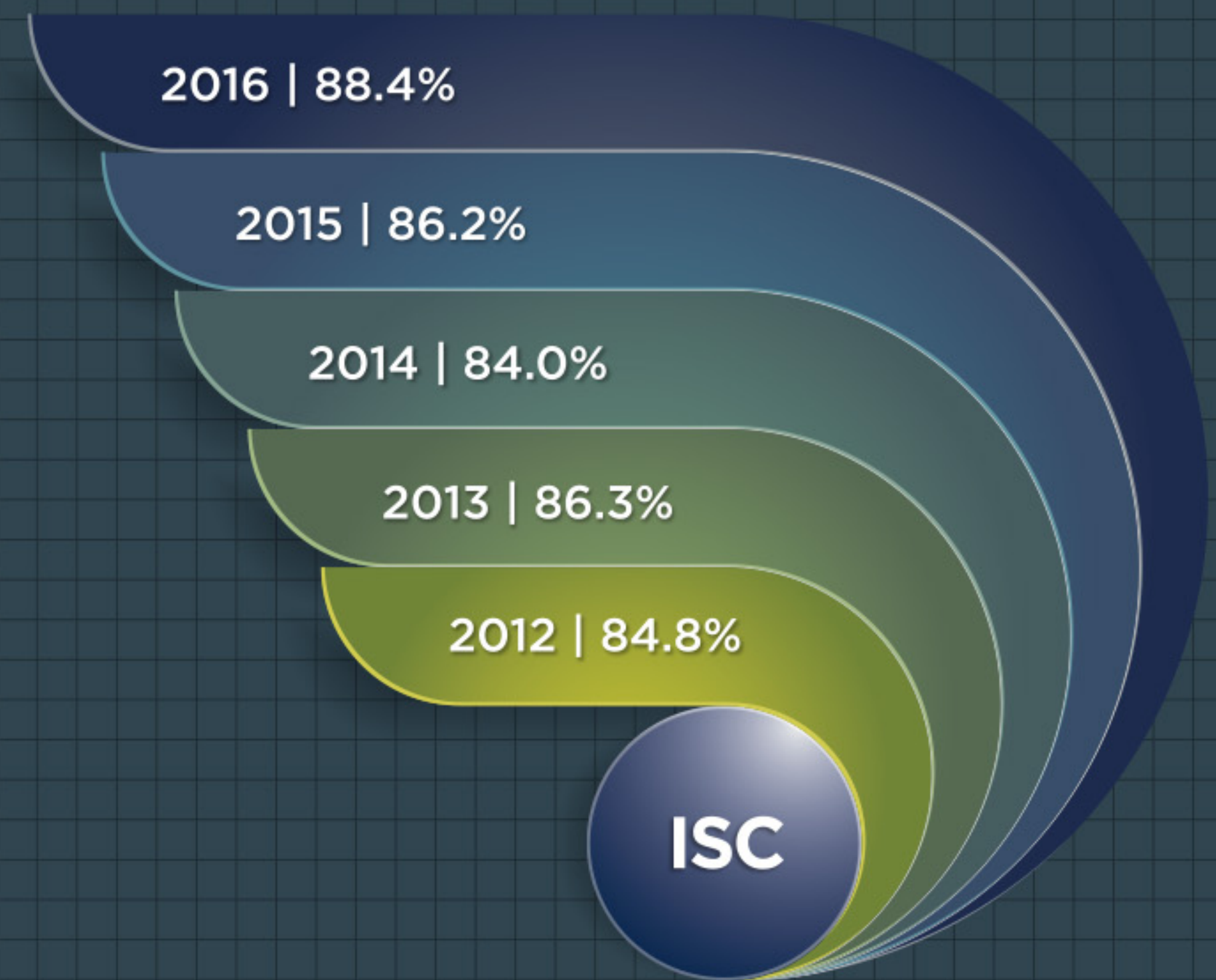
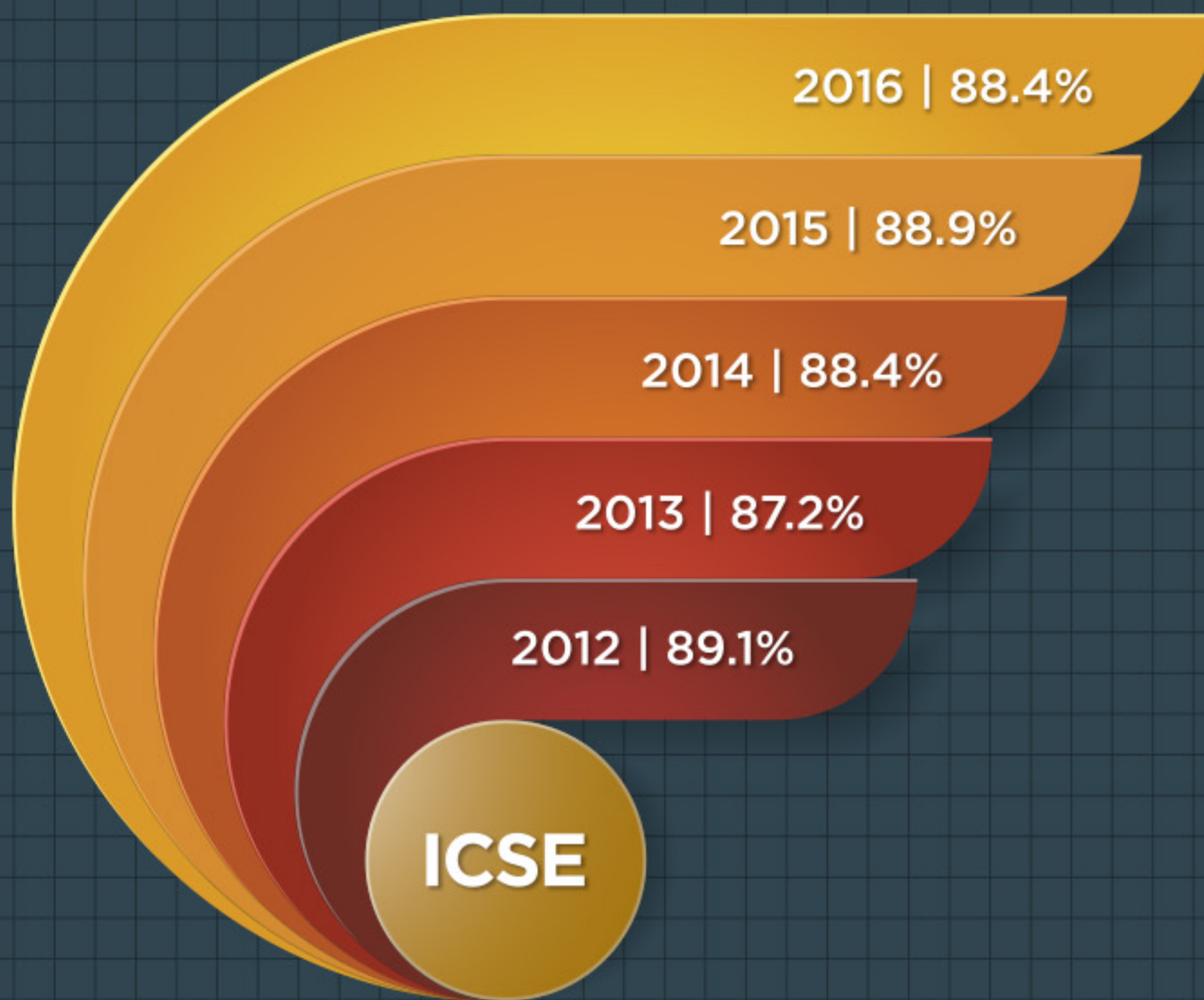
95.75%



ISC-Commerce Topper

Nidhi Ganapathi Bhat

95.25%



Stellar Performers

RISING STARS

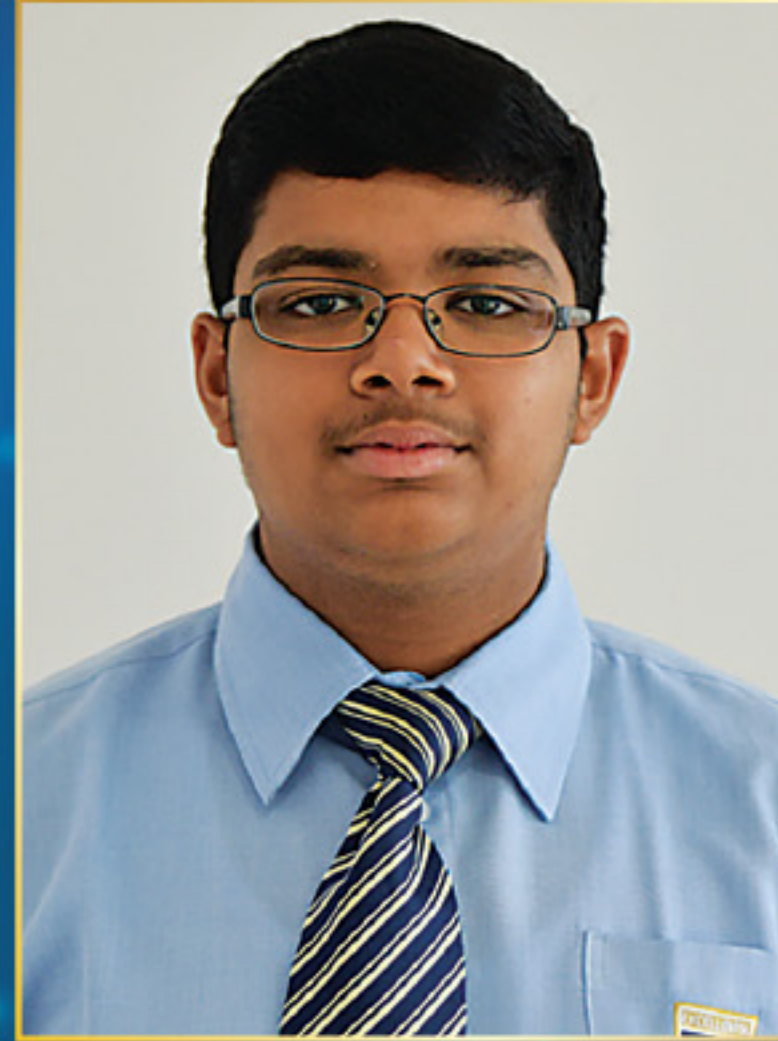


Transition Boys, Grade 8 and 9 - Winners of the U-13 NSL



Nandini Agarwal, Grade 11

Trinity Exhibition Award:
Highest in the Middle East and
Europe in the Grade 6 Violin
Examination



Vaishnav Rajkumar, Grade 10

Finalists at the Logophilia
Competition held in Varanasi,
India despite being up against
university students.



Saurav Anil Nair, Grade 12

Winner of over 100 division
medals in swimming
competitions held locally and on
the school circuit.



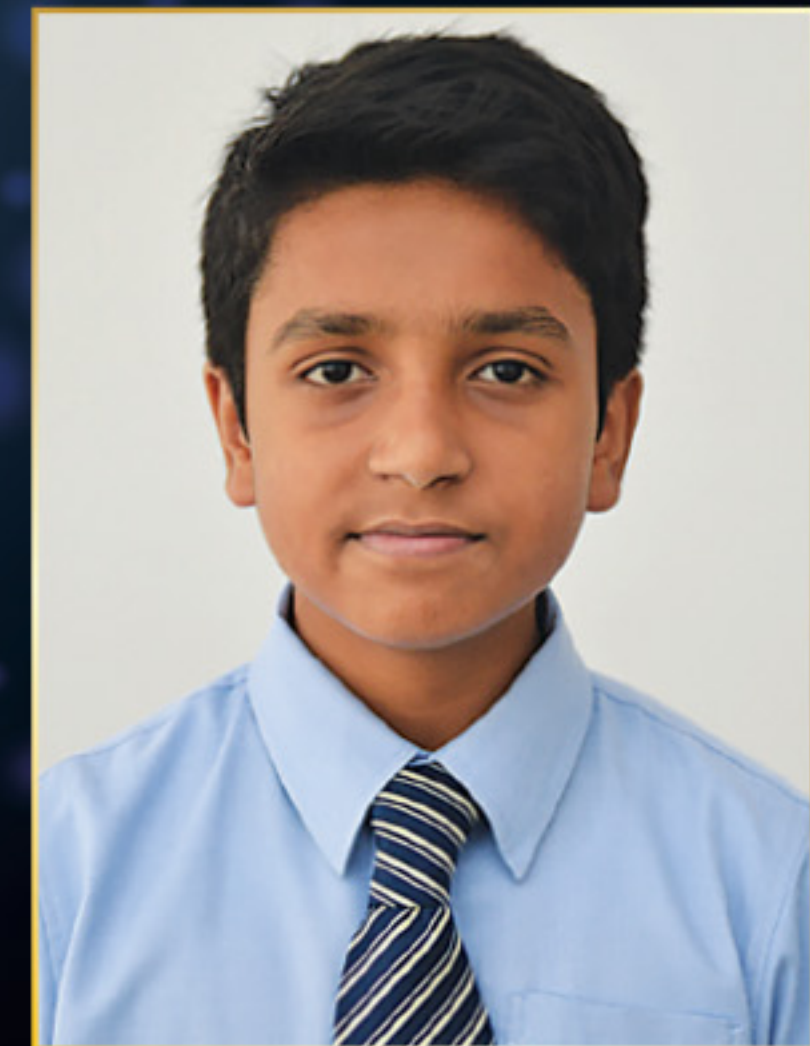
Sharada Prakash, Grade 7

Competed in The Language
Perfect Northern Championships
placing 2nd in the country and 8th
globally for the French Language.
She was also the winner of the
UAE Sangeet Samrat.



Sanchit Kapoor, Grade 12

Winner of iGate Scrabble
Championship, 7th in the World
Scrabble Championship and 3rd
in the Herriot Watt Programming
Competition. Sanchit also scored
a perfect 2400 score for SAT1.



Joel George Mathew, Grade 7

Received outstanding results
during the 2015-2016 Talent
Search organized by Centre for
Talented Youth, John Hopkins
University. ASSET Talent Search
Scholar - Gold prize winner.



Raunak Panoli, Grade 9
Man of the Match – U-13 NSL



Surya Vakkalaka, Grade 10
Trinity Apex Award – Piano



Varun Acharya, Grade 9
Winner-Inter Dojo Karate
Championship



Shrishti Ghosh, Grade 10
Invited to attend the prestigious
Yale Summer School for the
gifted in July 2015.



Sreesha Ghosh, Grade 10
Invited to attend the prestigious
Yale Summer School for the
gifted in July 2015.

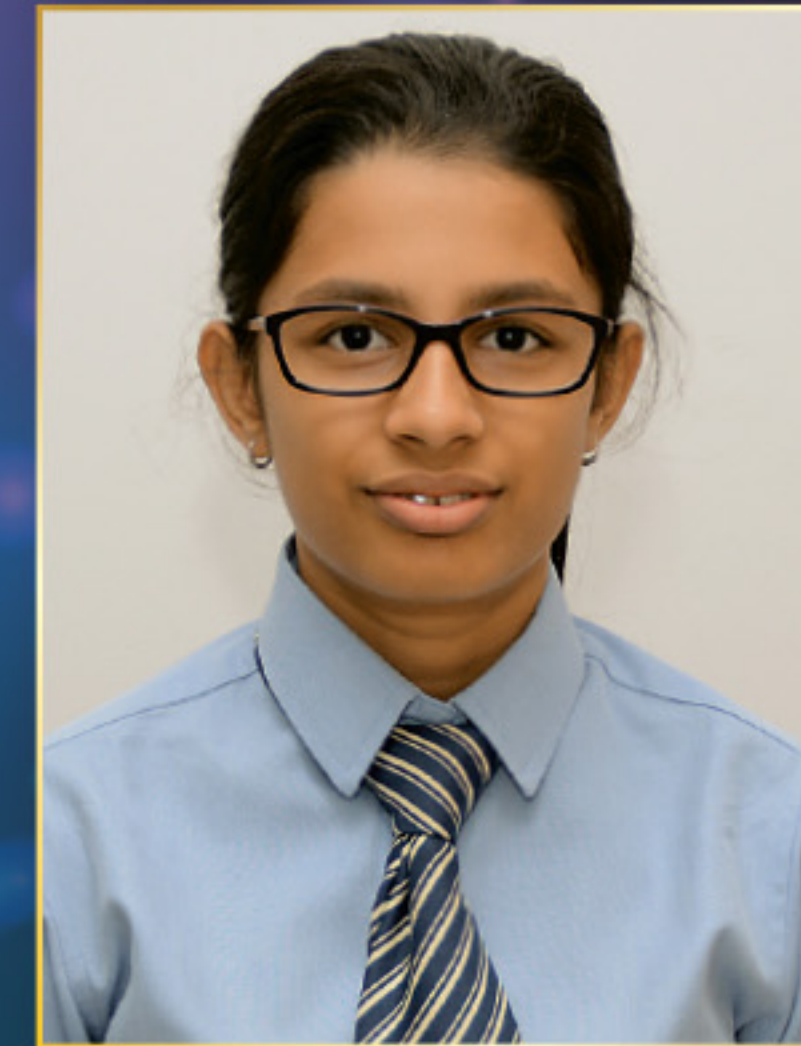


Carlin Joy, Grade 9
Finalist in the under 14 cricket
state team selection camp in
India (Kerela)



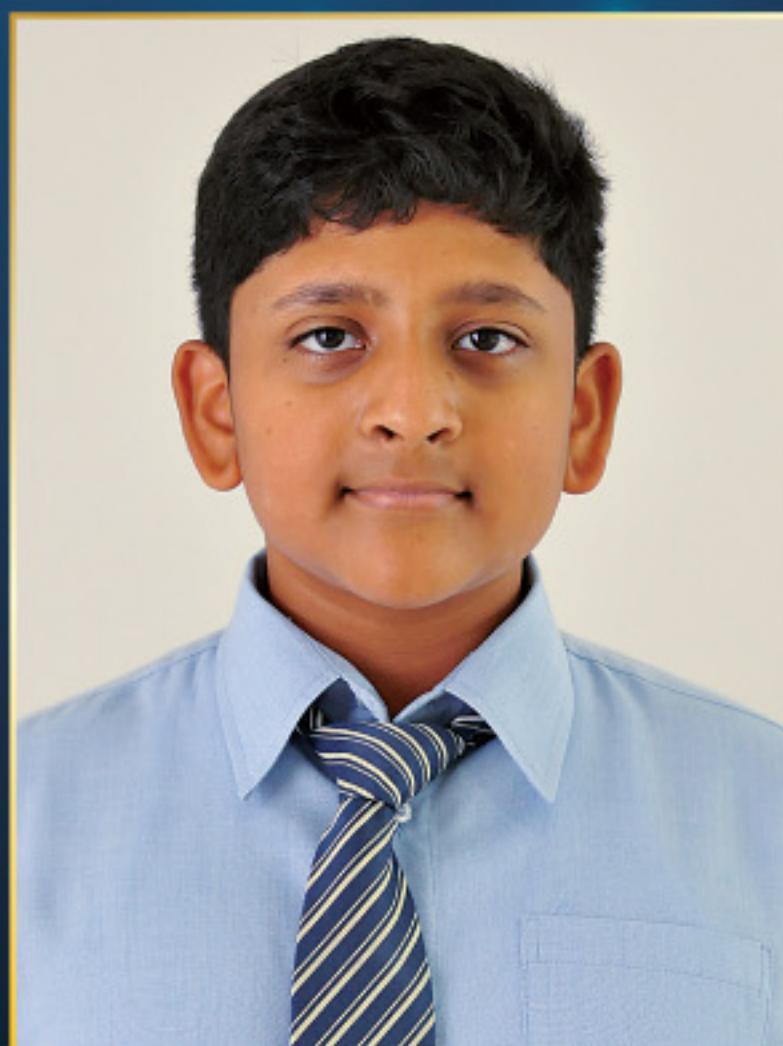
Reva Nambiar and Adnan Master, Grade 6

Awarded 3rd Prize at the Al Noor 'Let's Dance' Competition



Diya Bansal, Grade 8

Accepted as a member of Mensa International, the largest and oldest high IQ society in the world



Erick Rajamani, Grade 10

Declared 3rd best speller in the UAE at the Danube Spelling Bee. Erick also started a Spelling Bee club in St Mary's School in Mangalore during his summer vacations.



Anoushka Ghosh, Grade 8

Participated in the 2015 Cubes in Space program organized by NASA. Anoushka was also finalists of the Danube National Spelling Bee.



Rishi Lolla, Grade 7

Received outstanding results during the 2015-2016 Talent Search organized by Centre for Talented Youth, John Hopkins University. He has been accepted for Intensive Studies at Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs



Chevive Heri, Grade 11

Placed 2nd in the UAE National Spelling Bee



Dheeraj Devarajan, Grade 9

Finalist in the Marris International Spell Bee, Mumbai.



Natalia Mehta, Grade 9

Secured membership to a society for the Study of Exceptional Talent (SET) at the Johns Hopkins University Centre for Talented Youth (CTY)



Art Attack, Grade 9

The only junior team to be accepted into the YEC Competition 2016. Their profits were donated to an NGO in Calcutta.



Sai Priya Khosla, Grade 12 - Winner of the Sheikha Fatima Award 2015-2016



**Amay Borle and
Mayuri Bide,
Grade 12**

Won the Dubai Bake Festival with their prize winning lemon meringue recipe.



**Visheswar,
Grade 8E**

Winner of the Arab Innovation Award



Prize Day

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE

Premio Dia Celebrating Achievement

“Success is most often achieved by those who don't know that failure is inevitable” is a maxim embodied by every Modernite. Their relentless drive for excellence in every respect is a hallmark of their characters and their perseverance was validated at Premio Dia: Modern's Annual Prize Day - a tribute to the hard work and dedication of the students and staff of Modern.

The distribution of the prizes and awards this year was interspersed with performances from our musical “Shakuntala” and by our school orchestra as well.

Prize day is an exceptionally important event in Modern's calendar. It helps us honor our past, take stock of our present and most importantly, inspires us to raise the bar for the future.





Direct Support Encourage Steer Impact

Shakuntala

MODERN ROCKS THE FRINGE

2015 saw the staging of Modern's magnum-opus Shakuntala. A rock opera written, scored and directed by Kevin Oliver the cultural coordinator of GEMS in Dubai, inspired by the 15th century epic of the same name written by Kalidasa – Shakuntala was a feast for the senses. With a sterling and talented main cast backed by over 30 singers and dancers, the group manage to invoke feelings of heart breaking melancholy as well as a life affirming hope in the hearts of the audience, over the course of 19 songs spanning the genres of rap and pop. Shakuntala was also complemented by a monochromatic set design and cutting-edge stylized costumes.

What really caught the eye of most viewers in the audience was how seamlessly a quintessential Indian tale was transformed into a rock opera with rap and funk music. As a result, 'Shakuntala' wowed audiences in Dubai and then at the prestigious Edinburgh Fringe Festival where it was most gratifying and moving when the crew was awarded the Regal Rock Stars Award by the organizers of the Fringe Festival.

Shakuntala will undoubtedly remain Modern's grandest production, till our next musical, of course.



58 FESTIVAL NIGHTS

LENNON: THROUGH A GLASS ONION
Part concert and part biography, John Waters and Stewart D'Arrietta feature 31 Lennon and Lennon/McCartney hits. Assembly Hall, until August 28.



JASON BYRNE: 20 YEARS A CLOWN
The veteran comic returns for his 20th Fringe promising more of his hilarious comedy chaos with audience participation. Assembly Hall until August 30.

NINA CONTI: IN YOUR FACE
Having breathed new life into the lost art of ventriloquism, Nina's new show involves the comic strapping on a mask. Pleasance Courtyard, until August 30.



PETE FIRMAN: SUPER DUPER
The star of The Magicians is a master magician and a top-notch comic whose shows sold out in 2014. Pleasance Courtyard, until August 30.

7 PICKS

STEVE HENDRY ON BEST OF THE FEST - ALL SHOWS ARE ON EVERY NIGHT THIS WEEK

IAN STIRLING: TOUCHY FEELY
Fresh from narrating Love Island, Iain returns to his home town tackling post-referendum Scotland. Pleasance Courtyard, until August 30.



It's a show you shouldn't myth

Rock opera Shakuntala is making its European debut at the Edinburgh.

Performed by students from the GEMS Modern Academy School in Dubai and based on a tale from the Indian mythology of Mahabharata, Shakuntala has been reimagined as a rock opera with 19 original songs and a cast of 30 singers and dancers. It has been written, scored and directed by Kevin Oliver, group cultural co-ordinator for GEMS Dubai. He said: "I was looking for an inspiring story that was original and entertaining and I went from Grimm's fairy tales to true stories taken from newspaper cuttings, but nothing really captivated me until I was browsing through some ancient Indian folk tales. I stumbled upon Kalidasa's story of Shakuntala and the Lost Ring. It had everything that a musical needed - a fairytale love affair, the pledge of a ring, a curse from the angry holy man, the

Rock opera based on Indian fairytale put on by students from Dubai is a Fringe first.

STEPHEN HENDRY

it work as a rock opera with no spoken words but singing narrators to take the plot line from one scene to another. I also wanted to mix traditional music with hip hop and pop. I took a few liberties with the original storyline but the essence is there. "I have always been inspired by the work of Andrew Lloyd Webber and I drew influences for this production from Jesus Christ Superstar, which is what made me choose to write this as rock opera rather than a musical play." Edinburgh is a line in the sand, of sorts, given the claim the school is the first from the Middle East to have been performed in Edinburgh. It came about after the American High School Theatre Festival saw footage of the production in Dubai and

participate as part of their festival at the Fringe, a move supported by all. Kevin said: "The reaction from the UAE has been positive and encouraging. The production has already been staged in Dubai to rave reviews from sold-out shows. We even invited Trinity College of Music, London, to grade us as a production and we scored a distinction. Local press are interviewing us and GEMS Education is backing us completely. What more can a local school all the way from Dubai want? "Edinburgh Fringe is the most exciting place to be if you are a performer or director. We are hoping we get a great audience who will appreciate the show and spread the word. As for the future? "Disney, are you paying attention...?"

Shakuntala: A Rock Opera in English is at Church Hill Theatre



COLOURFUL...
Performers from Dubai in the rock opera Shakuntala







Graduation Day

**YOUR FUTURE
BEGINS NOW**

For all our students, the helping hands that see them through school years is always the senior pupils of the school. People who have experienced school life to the fullest.

The school bade farewell to the class of 2015-2016 in what was a grand yet nostalgic evening that touched the hearts of all who attended. The outgoing batch- an unforgettable group of seniors were treated to a memorable evening that inspired them all to go in the direction of their dreams. Class valedictorians Soham Agarwal and Pranathi Rao summed up succinctly all the wonderful work the batch will be remembered for as they step out of Modern.

A special mention must be made of our first batch of IB students who graduated this year. We are sure they will make us very proud. Everyone at Modern will miss this exceptionally talented batch of individuals – the batch of 2015-2016, au revoir!



Dreamers Today,
Visionaries of Tomorrow.



Council System

CELEBRATING COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP





The world is changing and educational institutions too find themselves at the brink of exciting movements that reflect the changes taking place around us. In a world of partnerships, joint ventures, outsourcing and complex supply chains, leaders need to be able to deliver results by working inter-dependently. In short, one of the key attributes of the successful modern leader is his or her ability to lead collaboratively.

In keeping with this evolving philosophy Modern instituted the council system last year – a system that would empower every single senior with leadership skills for life. It emerged out of enthusiastic debate, discussion and deliberation and was ideated and shaped by the insightful contributions of the pupils themselves. As we embark on our second year under this system we are confident that every senior pupil will receive opportunities to impact meaningful change within the school community thereby developing leadership and management skills for life.



Rihlat Al Hayat

A JOURNEY OF LIFE

Unique, creative and mesmerising are just some of the terms that have been used to describe the work of Padmashri Dadi Pudumjee and his team from the Ishara Puppet Theatre Trust. This year, children from all across the school were given an opportunity to perform in an original production that featured forceful acting, strenuous dancing, incredible music, stunning visual effects and an extensive use of puppets.

This was the first time that any student of Modern had been part of an event with such a sui generis nature. Spectators of all ages were enthralled and left wonderstruck by the talent on display. After dazzling members of the KHDA and wowing the GEMS corporate office with short yet impactful demonstrations the cast and crew of this production enjoyed resounding success with audiences.

The award winning team of the Ishara Puppet Theatre Trust trained students in dance, acting, puppeteering and narration with dedication and zest. Students were taught to craft their own props and worked for long hours perfecting them. The cast and crew were extremely dedicated, and even gave up their winter vacations and weekends to work on the show.

Split into three segments, this Arabic themed production was truly a visual treat and the long hours that were used to prepare for it were undeniably well spent. The ancient art of puppetry was extremely well utilised to exemplify the journey that life takes us on. All in all the children of GEMS Modern Academy put on an enthralling and thought-provoking performance with a relevant social message.






Sir Christopher Stone
Chief Education Officer (GEMS)
with Padmashri Dadi Pudumjee









Modernotsav

INDIAN & PROUD!

After the success of the last year's incredible celebration of Indian culture and tradition, on the 25th of January 2016, GEMS Modern Academy hosted another commemoration of our cultural heritage. A resounding success, this year's Modernotsav was based on the magnificent Silk Route of ancient traders and was described by many as being an excellent personification of our regions unique nature.

The afternoon was initiated by a prayer in Hindi and a heart-warming performance by Ishika Bakshi. The events proceeded with a dance performance showcasing the numerous styles of our region and a fashion show that depicted garments from all across our country. Modernotsav was held in our schools main field so as to allow for the many stalls, activities and the splendid children's play area. The magnificent event also featured amazing artwork by students, teachers and parents. Children from the primary school displayed arts and crafts from various countries on the silk route all across the venue. The art department of our school, along with the senior students created a display of traditional masks which stunned the attendees. A business fair was also hosted to raise funds for a charity drive and everyone ensured that it was a huge success.

3000 parents and children participated in this year's event and a multitude of activities were available for all to participate in. Food stalls that underlined different aspects of Indian cuisine and stalls featuring games that had been played for generations were present. This year Modernotsav featured a show of GMA's latest production, Rihlat Al Hayat, directed by the world renowned puppeteer Padmashri Dadi Padamjee.

The four hour long celebration was a true exemplification of Indian diversity. It is not often that as members of an international community that we get to honour our roots and this spectacular event provided a suitable opportunity to do so for all members of the Modern family.



01

The rules that govern schools today are radically different in comparison to even five years ago and educators all over the globe are being forced to adapt, adjust, redesign and make learning experiential and fun. Without innovation, the world can't develop. As the world evolves, so does teaching and learning at Modern.

02

This year, instead of the second terminal exams, Modern introduced a stimulating and fun filled process – Project @21! The idea of learning through projects was embraced wholeheartedly and created quite a buzz among students, staff and parents.

03

The newly introduced Project @21 challenged students to enhance their creative skills. Instead of writing examinations the students designed a project for each of the subjects. The projects were one-of-a kind since it not only allowed for cross-curricular links with other subjects but also links with real life and society at large. This challenged the students to think out of the box and through this process, they acquired many new 21st century skills.

Team work and collaborative learning is the crux of project@21. Each and every member of the team had a vital role to play while making their project. The experience provided the students opportunities to challenge themselves by learning in new and exciting ways.

04

Anshi Goradia of 6G1 says, "Through Project@21 I was able to learn innumerable skills. The one I enjoyed the most was when we had to work as a team and cooperate with each other. No one person could do it by herself and the group effort was a necessity. This helped us encourage each other throughout the project and thus made it an enjoyable and enriching experience!"

Project@21

TRANSFORMING HOW STUDENTS LEARN

06



Innovation @Modern

NURTURING AN ECOSYSTEM OF INNOVATION

Modern is, and has always been, at the cutting edge of information technology. Our constant drive and passion for innovation has led to the integration of technology in the learning-teaching process so that students and teachers can use technology as a tool for enrichment. Our students are competent users of Coding, Minecraft, Augmented Reality and QR codes in their learning journeys - thereby stretching themselves with challenges that push the digital frontier in education.

The government of the UAE declared 2015 as the year of Innovation. In keeping with this and Inspired by Sheikh Mohammad's vision of turning Dubai into the most innovative city, the year has seen an unprecedented push to nurture Modern's 'Innovative Ecosystem' as a school that fosters creativity and innovative pursuits in every respect. We began with the Innovation Mela for teachers which was followed by one for the students as well. The projects that came out of it have been phenomenal and thought provoking all at once.

Our participation in Maker Day'15 was a celebration of innovation and creativity as well. It was an event that brought together innovators from schools and communities all across the UAE . Modern presented the 'Levitating Bulb' and 'TechnoBike' in addition to completely new projects like 'Creatinine', 'Hydrophobia' and 'Magic Mirror'.

This year also marked the launch of MyLearning. As the successor to GLG, it had rather big shoes to fill but has done so admirably and with over 537,000 resources uploaded and is sure to take e-learning at Modern to the next level.

Despite the rapid changes in technology and with new ideas emerging and disappearing so soon one thing remains constant - Modern's unwavering determination to stay ahead of the curve. Watch this space for exciting new developments as we innovate like never before.





Grandparents Day

CIRCLE OF LOVE

Grandparents are special to every child. Their bed-time stories are an integral part of everyone's growing up years. They are also the wise and experienced ones we turn to in times of trouble. Their knowledge is invaluable and their love unconditional.

11th of February-Grandparents Day commenced with a prayer by one of our teachers. As a tribute to our senior citizens, the school presented its annual production-'Rihlat al Hayat- The Journey of Life' directed by Padmashree Dadi Pudamjee. The students of the Primary grades put up scintillating performances comprising songs, dances and skits for their beloved grandparents.

These, very experienced visitors shared their most treasured thoughts and values and gave the day a silver lining. Special games and activities were organized for them which they participated in and enjoyed whole-heartedly.

The little stars of the day felicitated their Grandparents with hand-made cards and mementoes. The day concluded with light refreshments and the grandparents went back happy and content.





Stephen Ritz Visits Modern

WHEN ASPIRATION AND INSPIRATION MEET

Stephen Ritz is a South Bronx educator who was recently named a 2015 Top Ten Finalist for the \$1m Global Teacher Prize. Stephen's accolades include a 2014 Greenius Award, 2014 Green Difference Award, 2013 Latin Trends Award, ABC Above and Beyond Award, Chevrolet / General Motors National Green Educator Award, USS Intrepid Hometown Hero Award, NYC Chancellor's Award.

Affectionately known as "America's Favorite Teacher," Stephen has moved attendance from 40% to 93% daily, helped provide 2,200 youth jobs in the Bronx and captured the United States EPA Award for transforming mindsets and landscapes in NYC. A strong advocate for Project Based Learning, Stephen is an annual presenter for the Buck Institute and works with school districts and universities across the country.

Needless to say, in the presence of such an accomplished individual, the students of grade 11 who interacted with him were captivated by his enthusiasm and passion. Yet, within minutes of meeting him, their anxiety and nervousness was set at ease as his humility and his easy going and humorous nature assuaged them.

Discussing several topics ranging from education in underdeveloped countries to project based learning, Mr. Ritz opened the eyes of the students and gave them a new perspective with which to look at the world.

Impressed as he was with this institution, he has intimated to us that he would like to work closely with the school. Among the many possible opportunities he mentioned, the most intriguing one was an offer to participate in an exchange program with students from this school attending the Green Bronx Machine and with his students attending this school.





Adventure Club

LEARNING IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Everybody loves an adventure and Modern's Adventure Club works diligently to offer enriching activities that enhance the development of children-socially, emotionally, physically as well as cognitively. Not only does the club aim at building character and leadership qualities in a student but also laying a strong base for developing the sense and importance of team-work and healthy habits. It promises a generation of responsible individuals dedicated to the service of their fellowmen. These aims are achieved through a number of activities such as making knots and lashing, following trail signs, practical use of the compass, hand and whistle signals, first aid, pioneering projects, camps, hikes and treks and many more.

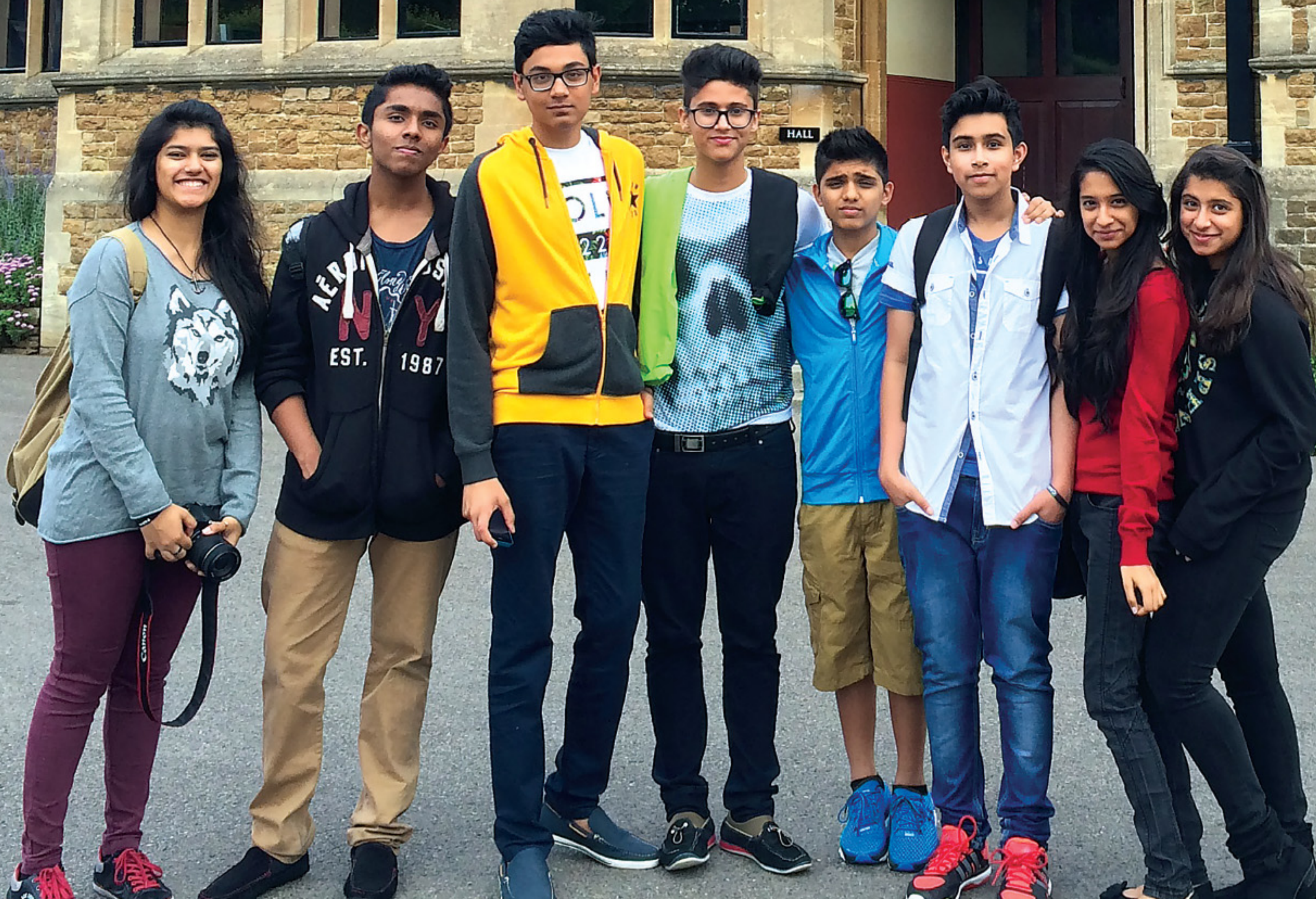
The highlight of this year's activities was the camp amid the mountains of Jabal Hafeet. At this camp, students were taught how to pitch tents, basic cooking skills and using improvised shelter. To add to the fun, inter-patrol games were conducted. This camp was an enriching experience for the campers.

"Adventure isn't hanging on a rope off the side of a mountain but as an attitude that we must apply to the day to day obstacles of life." – John Amatt



Global Young Leaders 2015

ARGUABLY, THE BEST!



The Global Young Leaders (GYL) course, now in its ninth year, is held annually in some of the most historic educational institutions in England. The two-week summer programme was initially designed to help young people improve confidence in public speaking and to provide a deeper understanding of important world issues.

Modern has partnered with the organizers of GYL in order to design and modify course content to suit the needs of our students. Today, the course focuses on debating and critical thinking, taught by experienced debating coaches from top universities. Using this approach, students are mentored in developing arguments, applying persuasive techniques, and expressing their ideas to convince any audience.

This year Modern sent its ninth batch of students to attend the course that was held in the 400 year old Charterhouse School in Surrey, England. Needless to say, the experience was enriching and deeply appreciated by the students as they were able to learn from their mentors and the students who attended from other parts of the world such as Germany, France, Russia and Poland. In addition to the academic nature of the course, the programme also includes weekly outings to the historic and inspirational towns of Oxford and Cambridge. For the first time, the programme also included a trip to Stratford upon Avon and 5 West End musicals so that the students had a wide range of experiences over their two weeks in England.

Following two weeks of intense debate training, team Euphoria comprising Yash Chauhan, Shivam Malpani and Fatema Ehtasam emerged the champions of GYL 2015. Swayam Parida, Saurav Nair and Dhivya Umachandran placed second with Anjalie Thomas, Saurav Nair and Nithin Narayanan bagging the top individual honours overall.



Modern World Debates & Quiz

WINNING THE DOUBLE

From the 7th to the 9th of November, Modern set out to retain its title in the 7th edition of the annual Modern World Debates and Quiz. Having performed the 'double' in 2014, winning both again was not going to be easy.

The Debating and Critical Thinking council was entrusted with the task of planning and running the event. In addition to eleven local schools from the Emirates Modern hosted three international teams this year – St. James' School from Kolkata, the Vasant Valley School from Delhi, and St. George's School from Mussoorie. We also welcomed five members of the prestigious debating society of the University of St. Andrews, who were this tournament's adjudicators led ably by course director of the Global Young Leaders – Mr. Alex Don.



Modern's red-letter event kicked off with the preliminary round of the quiz and a workshop led by chief adjudicator Alex Don. The first motion debated was 'THW make the CEOs of big companies personally liable for environmental damages caused by their companies'. Soon after, the second round got underway, where participants debated the motion 'THW make military courts accountable to civilian juries, sworn to secrecy'. The quizmasters returned for the grueling final round and after a close run the jubilant team of Satwik and Ishan from Modern clinched the trophy again!



The final day of the competition saw the two winners of the semi-finals, Modern High, represented by Soham Agarwal, Mathew Jose and Sreyas Narayanan, in proposition, and Jumeirah College in opposition, meet in the final, debating the motion 'THBT countries with booming populations should allocate a single tradeable permit to every citizen to have a child'. After a very high-quality debate, the adjudicators awarded the win to an ecstatic Modern team, thrilled that they had repeated the double.





The World Scholar's Cup 2015

GLOBAL ROUND MALAYSIA

In the year 2008 a young gentleman walked in through the gates of the Safa Park campus of Modern and asked to meet the Principal without an appointment. That young man was Daniel Berdichevsky, the founder of the globally acclaimed academic competition 'The World Scholar's Cup' which has grown exponentially since it first began. Modern attended the competition that year in Singapore and thereby began a close relationship with the organizers that led to Modern hosting two successful rounds of this global competition.

This year three teams from Modern qualified for the global round in Kuala Lumpur and Aaryan Arora, Aryan Pal Tah and Virraaj Karthik represented the school. The intense academic competitions were based on the overall theme 'The World Unbound' and students worked tirelessly to cover subject content that ranged from familiar territory to completely new learnings in the areas of History, Science, Literature, Arts and Social Studies

Of the 1900 students from around the world, the three boys from Modern won gold with their team placing 14th overall. The team also placed 14th in the writing challenge with Aryan Pal Tah and Virraaj Karthik placing 35th and 54th out of 1900, respectively. Aryan Pal Tah was awarded the Top Scorer Award.

While participants spend long hours preparing for this competition, the experience undoubtedly gives them the opportunity to celebrate new learning while it motivates students not just to demonstrate their existing strengths but to discover new ones as well.







IHMC

WHAT FEELINGS SOUND LIKE IN TUNE...

It is said that music nurtures the soul, feeds the spirit, warms the heart and calms the mind. It breaks barriers, brings people together and is instrumental in honing the creative skills of each and every modernite. With this in mind, every year, this school holds the Inter House Music Competition or IHMC as it is popularly called.

The competition requires each house to put on a mini-musical (a production lasting no more than 20 minutes) with a storyline centering around 4 songs – 2 solos, a duet and a group song, with a common theme.

This year, the competition was fierce and led to each house putting up a stellar performance. In the words of the chief guest Mr. Kevin Oliver himself, "it is amazing that children of such a young age are able to captivate the audience and tell a story in such a short span of time."

IHMC will remain unforgettable for Pegasus - their first win in the competition. Orion came a deserving second.





Duke of Edinburgh **TAKE THE CHALLENGE**

The International Award for Young People.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award is a global scheme aimed at bringing people together for the common purpose of youth empowerment. This program requires students to log a prerequisite amount of hours in different fields of Physical Activity, Social Service and development of Skills. The award also requires students to complete one adventurous journey. For the Silver Award, students are required to cook their own food, pitch their own tents and essentially take care of themselves completely for the duration of the expedition which must also feature a purposeful activity. To this end 71 students from the 11th grade embarked on a journey to the Kullu-Manali district of Himachal Pradesh, India, a region renowned for its picturesque views and pleasant weather.

Landing at the Sri Guru Ram Das Jee International Airport in Amritsar, the participants had a 15 hour bus ride in store for them in order to reach Manali. The next day, after a short drive to the village of Naggar in the Kullu Vally the children had a three hour practice trek and a 4-hour trek from Naggar to Nashala, enroute to the Pir Panjar mountain.

For their qualifying trek, students walked all the way from their camp near the village of Nashala, set deep in the Kullu Valley to the Village Jana on a trek that lasted them nearly seven hours, four of which were spent going up the Bijili Mahadev Mountain. The children were additionally trained in river crossing, rappelling and white water rafting, and along with their teachers even jumped into the freezing cold waters of the Beas River.

The enjoyment, the thrill, the challenge, the sense of belonging to something much larger than oneself and the pure exhilaration experienced during this trek is surely etched into all the participant's minds. On this trip, the students learnt invaluable lessons, forged friendships and strengthened bonds that will undoubtedly last them a lifetime.



Future Hope 2016

IF YOU HAVE HOPE, YOU HAVE EVERYTHING.

Founded by Tim Grandage in 1987, Future Hope Kolkata has a number of homes for boys and for girls, which provide education and accommodation for destitute children ranging in the ages of five to nineteen. For the last 2 years, students from our school have visited and spent time with the children of Future Hope, teaching them Maths and English among other subjects and more importantly, playing cricket and football and singing with them. Though the goal at the outset of the trip was to reach out to the children, it was the children who ultimately taught us the important lessons of how to be happy and how to make more with less making these trips, impossible to forget.

An inexplicable emotion...

We went there as seventeen,
Hoping, to meet some kids with hearts of gold,
We were told, they were as strong as lions, and
Fought life's challenges ,like Napoleon's soldiers,
Excited, we were, for this journey.

When we met them first,
They seemed like any others, but
All it took us was one closer look at them,
To spot the million differences,
That made them bigger than us.

We expected to change their lives, but
Without us or them realizing,
They changed, the way, we look at life, and
They changed, the way, we look at ourselves...

- Gokul Prajeeth







Musical Tour of Europe

VIOLIN VIRTUOSOS



The string orchestra of Modern got an opportunity to visit the picturesque country of Austria and Czech Republic to enrich their knowledge of western classical music.

Their first concert was at Prague, where the students performed in the Petrof Piano Factory and Museum. The audience appreciated the concert and acclaimed the performance. The next activity which the students got to attend was a workshop conducted by Ms. Adela Stajnochrova, a professional Violinist in Prague, from whom we learned to play local Czech folk music and improve their playing skills.

They also witnessed a concert at the Old Prague Castle Complex where they performed the works of Dvorak, Smetana, Vivaldi, Mozart and many more classical composers.

The next leg of the tour was at Salzburg where they enjoyed outdoor activities like football and lawn tennis. Salzburg is historically known for its beautiful landscape and of course classical music. The Orchestra group got an opportunity to interact with the local Austrian Musicians and even dance to their folk tunes. The Modernites did not hesitate to try their hands on the local instruments as well.

The final destination was Vienna- where the group had their final performance of the tour at Schonbrunn Palace. Though the weather was not favorable for the outdoor concert, the audience braved the weather and stood with their umbrellas mesmerized by the tunes played by the young musicians of Modern.

The troupe returned to Dubai on the 10th of July with beautiful memories of nature's splendor and enriched by the musical heritage in these countries.



IBDP Reflection

REWIND REFLECT RENEW

Over the last two years Modern has had the distinct pleasure of observing our students and teachers embarking on an amazing journey together, one that will last a lifetime. The first class of IB students to graduate from Modern is very unique in its makeup of different personalities, abilities and future goals.

Whilst the academic side of the course is exacting, students and parents describe the experience as a great adventure during which everyone was looking to explore new frontiers and push their personal boundaries. The last two years has undoubtedly given students a wide berth and a lot of space to explore, research and create.

We are proud to share that our first batch of IB students have received offers and placements in premium universities in U.K, U.S.A, Dubai and India.



“

The IB program was like a walk in the desert, with the mirage of paradise in the distance. It has challenged me beyond all measure, has cultivated vital skills in me at such an early stage of my life and has truly showed me that no task is impossible if enough effort is spent in doing it. Thanks to the IB Diploma course I have learned a new language (Spanish), a new sport (Hockey) and have made a number of new friends (Managebac, Bio Ninja and Easybib). Although this journey is full of challenges, I know that with perseverance, the mirage of paradise will soon be a reality.

Rhea Dcosta

“

Being the new student can be hard sometimes, especially when you're in 11th grade and you join the school after a term is over. It was Modern's kind and amicable community which made it so much easier for me to fit in this wonderful school. The IBDP course was not easy but the teachers embraced my weaknesses and paved a new path full of meaningful opportunities. I couldn't have asked for a better school.

Ansh Virmani

“

Navigating the IB Diploma Programme, a new, unique, first-time experience with my teachers and peers has been a challenging task. Yet, as I approach the end of this experience, I feel glad that I opted for this programme. It is a programme that has brought out the best in us, and dared us to work harder and smarter. Overall, these two years have been quite strenuous but immensely rewarding.

Sreyas Narayanan





KG Sports Day

SMILES. LAUGHS. FITNESS. FUN!

Kindergarten Sports Day was held on Wednesday 9th December for Pre KG and KG1 and Thursday 10th December for KG2 with Mr. Lee Davis and Sheikha Hind Al Mulla gracing the occasions as Chief Guests.

The theme was 'We Support the Global Goals'. The Global Goals aim towards achieving three extraordinary targets in the next fifteen years - End Extreme Poverty, Fight Inequality and Injustice and Fix Climate Change.

Team work and collaboration were on full display through the drills and novelty relays while good health and wellbeing was emphasized through Yoga. The sports day event was compered by the KG 2 children for the second time in a row. All the races displayed different levels of skills, independence as well as team work. Our visitors and parents appreciated the children's efforts and marveled at their collaboration and cheerful spirits.



Primary School Athletic Meet

GAME ON

Learning to push through the extra mile...

Cheering crowds, glittering medals, and the thrill of competition all came together on the 15th & 16th of February 2016 as GEMS Modern Academy proudly hosted the Annual Primary School Athletic Meet. The programme began with the March-past of the four Houses where students of Grade 4 displayed their marching skills accompanied by the Marching Band.

This was followed by the Torch Relay in commemoration of the Olympic Flame Relay, with Katelyn Correia taking the Oath of Sportsmanship. The wonderful drill displays of the students in Grades 1 - 3 showcased an excellent fusion of grace, strength and clockwork precision. The various track events interspersed with Gymkhana races like Big Foot, Chak-de Modern, Artful Dodgers, Skip Along were a joy to watch.

The Individual Championship trophies were awarded to Aarav Mishra of Cygnus and Samyukhta Rao of Pegasus. Aquila was declared overall winners of the Annual Primary School Athletic Meet.





Middle School Athletic Meet

LET THE GAMES BEGIN

The first Middle School Athletic Meet was held amid much fanfare. The afternoon was one of unique firsts. Spectators were treated an inter-house aerobic drill competition instead of a mass drill display and it was lovely to see the hard work each House had put in. Another important event was the Inter-House march past by the students of grade 7 as was the formation of a marching band and the pyramid demonstrations.

The meet also saw the students participating in several races like relays, 100 and 400-meter track events and hurdles. There were also fun events such as the teachers and students relay, flat races and obstacle races for the support staff as well as the highly anticipated Staff vs Parents tug-of-war.



Senior School Athletic Meet

EXCELLENCE IS A MINDSET



Sport they say is a metaphor for life that helps us realize the importance of having a clear, single-minded vision of what we want and how we need to focus in order to achieve our goals.

The Annual Senior School Athletic Meet was a grand success and what made it even more special was the excellent parents' turnout to support our young athletes. The march past was of an exceptionally high standard as was the lively aerobics routine which received rave reviews from everyone who witnessed it. The day ended with Cygnus making a clean sweep in both the boys and girls categories but the camaraderie and cheerful faces at the end of it all was the highlight of the day.

There is a relatively consistent research showing that students who participate in athletics tend to fare significantly better both in school and in later life. At Modern, sport is not just an extra-curricular activity. It is an education in itself – a preparation for life.



Sukwinder Bassi
Senior Vice President (GEMS) with the Winning House



Cricket

CHASING THE DREAM!

The cricket highlight of the year is undoubtedly the Under 13 Team being recognized as a force to reckon with as they have established themselves as champions. The students displayed immense talent and won innumerable trophies including a second time NSL trophy, and the runners up trophy for the Max Talent competition.

Modern also staged the seventh edition of Shreyas Memorial Tournament. Attended by the best schools from all over the U.A.E.. We clinched our 5th win in the tournament and saw some exceptional performances from our players. The Under 17 Boys have also been serious contenders in almost all competitions hosted this year.

At Modern we encourage all age groups to participate in cricket tournaments and our Under 11 and Under 12 boys have done us proud with some great performances. In the KGS Under 11 tournament we entered the competition as the youngest side and emerged as runners-up. The Under 12 boys emerged as runners up in the Sandeep Bhatavia tournament as well.

Cricket is an integral part of Modern's sporting and cultural fabric and continues to build leadership and collaborative skills in the young people who participate so passionately in the game.





Football

WHERE PASSION & PRECISION MEET

Success isn't given, you have to work at it!

Ask a footballer and he or she will tell you that there is probably no feeling as exhilarating as the one you feel when you run down the field, with the football at your feet. The game has always been popular at Modern and our commitment to it reflects our passion for the game.

2015-2016 was a record year that saw students come out in large numbers to participate in over 8 major inter- school tournaments.

Over the year, the teams have learned several important lessons including the value of hard work and perseverance and above all, the importance of a good attitude. As the year comes to a close, the team has learnt from past games and is already gearing up for its next season.



Basketball

RISE TO EVERY CHALLENGE



There's an old saying 'Basketball doesn't build character, it reveals it.' How true that maxim is for the students who take to Modern's courts with passion and enthusiasm. While games are won and lost locally and abroad all year, the highlight of the season was when the under 13 boys team went to Delhi, India this year.

In the first game of the series, the team played against GEMS International Palm Vihar. Despite facing tough opposition, they won the match with a commanding lead. Our boys also played against Shiv Nadar School and the DPS International Edge.

While in Delhi, the team attended a workshop where they furthered both their theoretical and practical knowledge of the game before their final match against Sankalp Basketball Academy.

The trip was an emotional roller coaster full of ups and downs but at the end, the team was left enriched by the experience.



Hockey

VICTORY IS THE GOAL

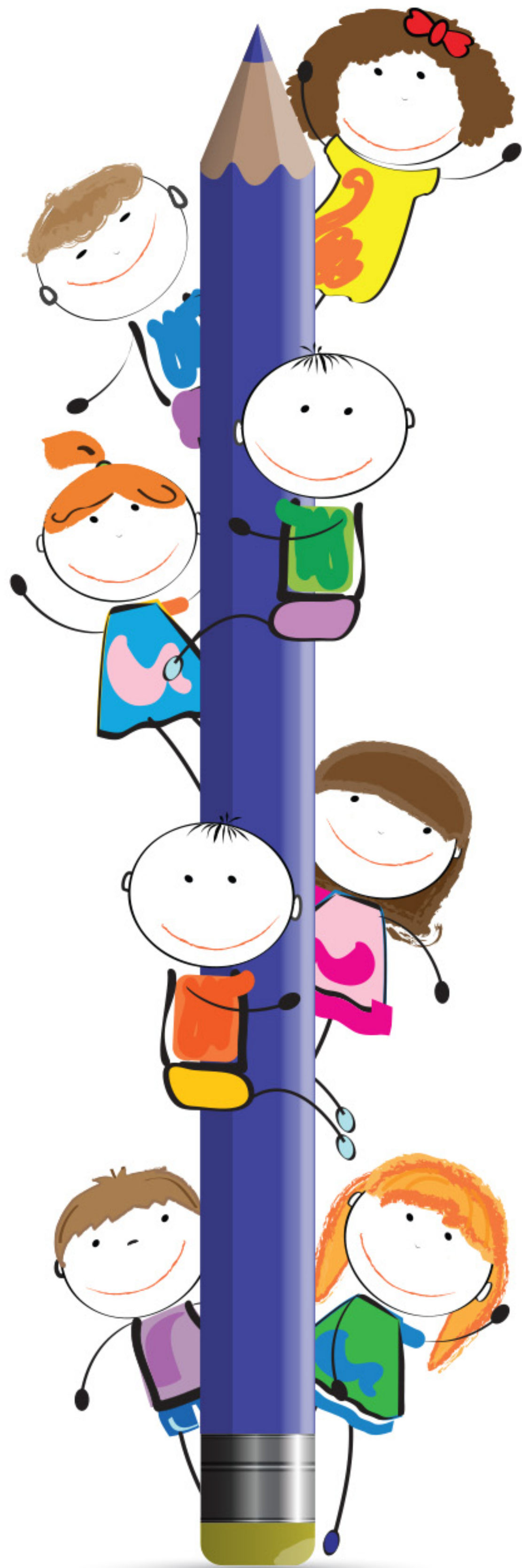


Field hockey is a sport that is relatively new to our school and yet, in such a short span of time, it has made an impact on the school and its students. With the help of one of our parents, Mr. Hemant Jhulka, the programme has come into its own. Unlike traditional sports, which mostly constitute physical training, the hockey training programme incorporated design thinking as well as elements of team management into its regime.

Through Design Thinking, the students invented eight new games including "Sweg-way" basketball and remote controlled soccer among others. The hockey sessions for the year culminated in eleven-a-side games with both students and teachers participating.

This year, our school entered an Inter-school Field Hockey Tournament and again all odds, won the competition. Students who had, until a few short weeks ago, never even held a hockey stick, were suddenly guiding the ball like professionals and discussing positional play in their off time.

The programme was a roaring victory and reminded us of the important lesson that it is never too late to start doing something for the first time and that passion and hard-work can drive a person to success.



KG Art

POINTILLISM

It was with great fervor and enthusiasm that 'Dot Day' was celebrated in Gems Modern Academy on the 15th of September, 2015.

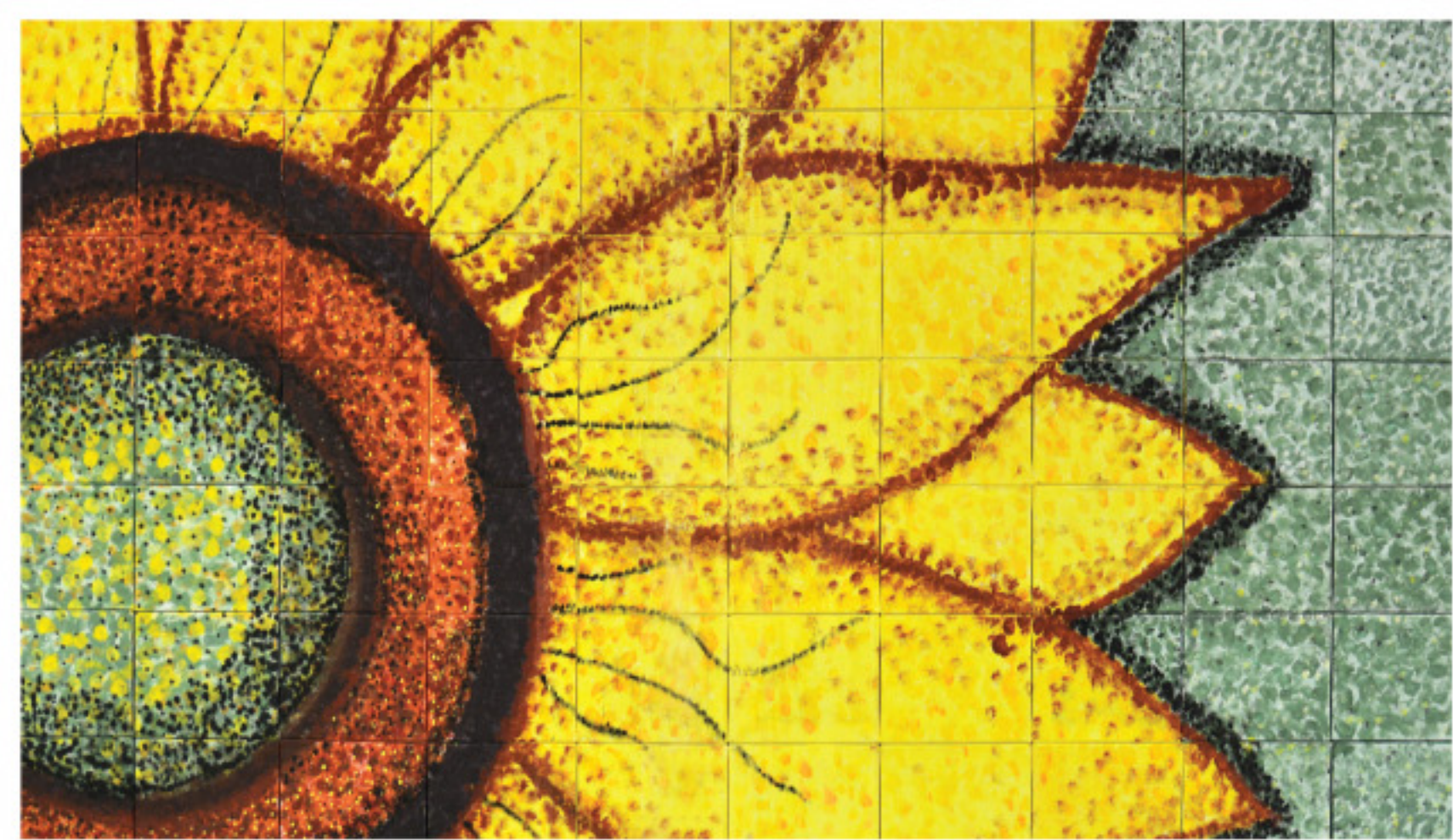
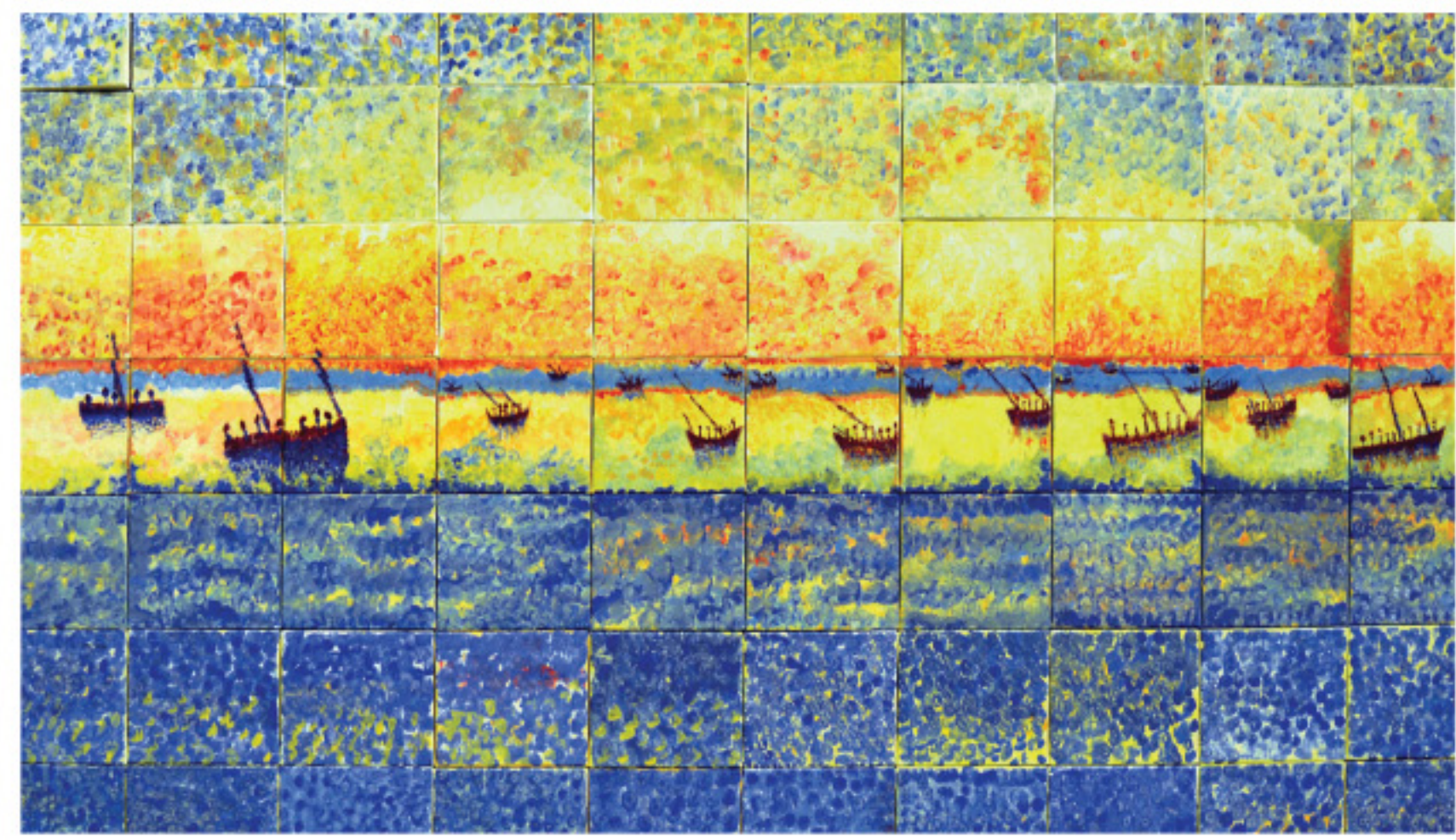
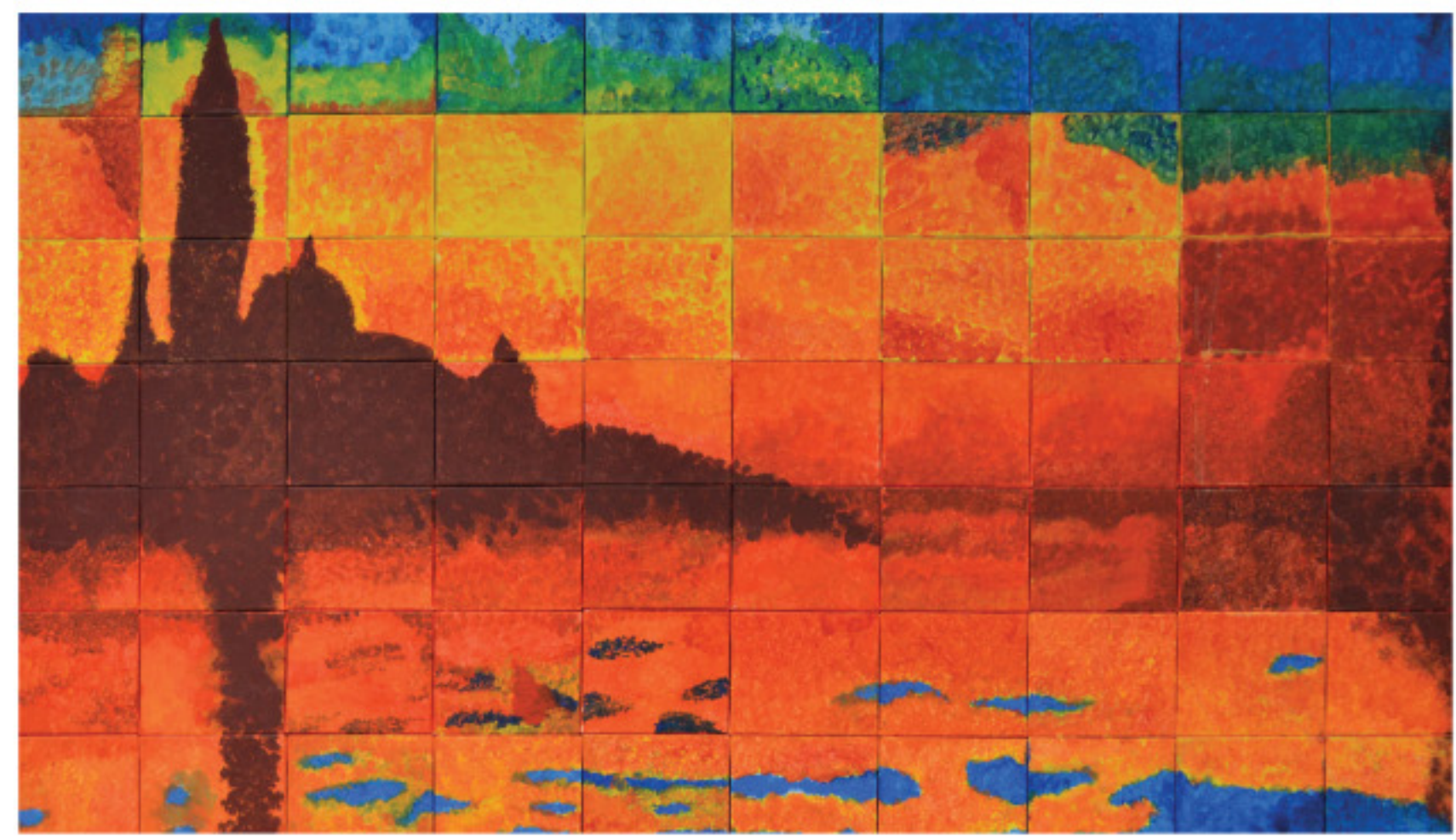
The kindergarteners at Modern stole the show with their amazing art work and beautiful creations.

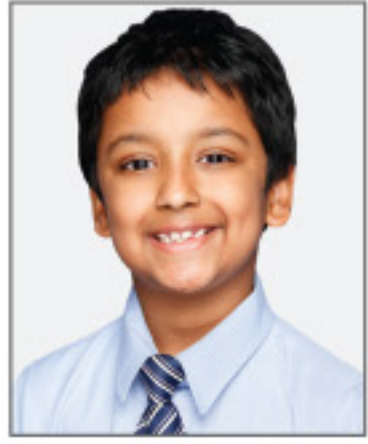
While Kindergarten2 recreated the magic of famous and celebrated artists like Paul Signac, Monet, Van Gough with the help of 'Pointillism' Kindergarten1 created spectacular artwork around Aboriginal Art, Kandinsky and Van Gough's famous painting 'Starry Night'.

While viewers were awestruck to see such striking resemblance with the original art work it was a great accomplishment for our little ones to recreate these as 'Modern Masterpieces'.

The students saw how each of their canvas with little points gradually became part of a bigger picture. All children from the 14 sections took part in this collaborative effort of putting together five famous works of art.

It was well appreciated by parents and guests who visited the school.

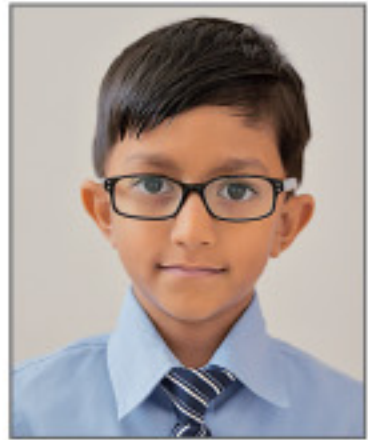




A ROBOT AND RICO STORY

Armaan Dino
Grade 2 B

My favorite character in the story is Rico. Rico likes to skate and so do I. He often likes to invent skateboard tricks and is also a good teacher. He patiently teaches Robot how to board and always encourages him to never give up even when he falls off the board sometimes. This quality – patience, is very similar to my teachers and my parents who always tell me to keep trying and to never give up.



IF I HAVE WINGS

Shaurya Partap Singh Shekhawat
Grade 2 I

If I have wings
I will touch the cloud
And eat them like cotton candy
I will fly like a bird
I will race with the planes
I will play with the moon like a beach ball
If I had wings I would steal light from the sun
And spread light in everyone's life
And make them smile.

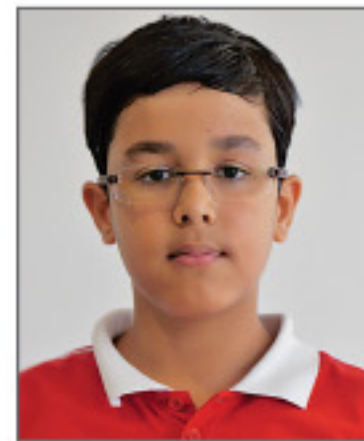


THE PUPPET SHOW

Nisha Koshy
Grade 3 I

I was bubbling with curiosity and excitement. I was about to see an incredible puppet show. It

was made by the One and Only Dadi Pudumjee. I had always wished to see a magnificent puppet show of his and now I was bursting with joy as my wish was coming true. When I entered the noisy auditorium, the lights went off. Then it became dark and spooky and suddenly the stage lit up. The puppet show was about the Journey of life. There was harmonious and melodious music being played, cool and stylish dance moves and awesome and dazzling puppets. Now I knew why Dadi Pudumjee is famous and loved by everyone! He has a creative mind and made gorgeous and artistic puppets which could entice people to come and watch the puppets rock the stage. All I have got to say about the puppet show is that it was mind blowing and I truly enjoyed it.

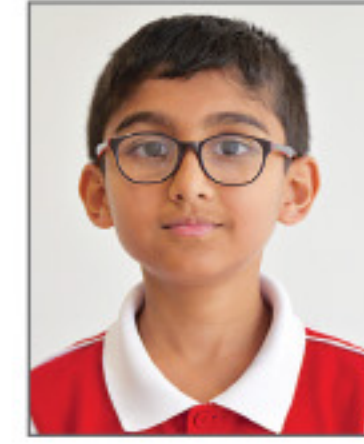


THE AL FAROOQ
OMAR BIN AL KHATTAB
MOSQUE AND CENTRE
Akshay
Grade 4 A

The mosque is named after Umar Bin Al Khattab, a companion of Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) who became the second Caliph after Abu Bakr and was given the title Al Farooq meaning someone who has distinguished truth from falsehood.

It is considered one of UAE's largest mosques and the third of its kind to open its doors to non-muslims after the Mosque of Late Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan in Abu Dhabi and the Grand Mosque in Jumeirah.

From this school trip, I learnt that we should dress properly before entering the Mosque, and that we should respect the traditions and culture of our Muslim friends.



MY FATHER

Sooraj Rajive Kumar
Grade 4 C

My father and I are even more than a father and a son – we are the best of friends, maybe the best in the whole world!

I love my father because he supports me and makes me understand my mistakes. He helps me when I am facing trouble, and also plays with me when I am alone. He gives me examples from his life and tells me how to face situations in mine. He tells me to accept my mistakes without fear and correct them immediately.

There are billions of reasons why I love my father. I plan to end this article with this message that my father always gives me **“Don't raise your voice. Improve your argument”** I love my father very much.



My Trip to the MOSQUE

Ranya Jain
Grade 4 C

The Al Farooq Omar Bin Al Khattab mosque and centre is located in Dubai, UAE. The mosque is named after Omar Bin Al Khattab, a companion of Prophet Mohammed who became the 2nd Caliph after Abu Bakr and was given the title Al Farooq. The visit gave me a chance to learn about a new culture.



THE RAT'S LIFE

Advait Namboodiri
Grade 4 C

Once upon a time there lived a rat who always dreamt of living the life of a human being and traveling around the world seeing new places and countries. He came to know of a wizard who lived in the dark forest, who had a magic potion which could convert any animal into a human being. The rat went to the wizard and pleaded to give him a few drops of that magic potion. The wizard felt pity for the rat and gave him a few drops of that magic potion.

Lo and behold! The rat became a handsome young man. He was very happy, thanked the wizard and set off on his journey. He traveled around the world and saw that human beings were starving in some countries, killing each other in other countries, cutting down forests and polluting the earth, sky and the seas.

The more the rat traveled, the unhappier he became. After many months of seeing this scene over and over again, he stumbled upon the same forest where the wizard lived. This time he knocked on the door of the wizard's cottage and begged the wizard to convert him back into a rat. The rat no longer wanted to be a human being as he thought that rats lived better lives than human beings.

The wizard granted the rat's wish and gave him back his old self. Happily the rat walked away and never ever complained about being born as a rat.



THE BLUE WHALE

Surya Ramamkrishnan
Grade 5 J

The Blue Whale is a male
He always lands up in jail

He puts items on sale.
He has a tail to bash up his enemies
But he always fails.

The only time he doesn't fail is
When ships leave trails
Like a snail



ALIENS-EXTRA TERRESTRIAL BEINGS

Aarya Prakash
Grade 6 E

Sometimes I wonder what would happen if aliens were real. Suppose we made a friendly connection with them. I sometimes imagine, if aliens were our friends what would they look like? I think they would have big heads, three fingers and toes, pointy ears and purple skin. What technology would they have invented? Maybe, they would have invented a machine that teleports people from one planet to another or an auto space-jet that transports people from one galaxy to another. If I tell someone aliens were real, they would just tell me I was telling them a cock and bull story. I once dreamt of meeting an alien. They spoke a weird language but gave me a translator to understand them. They told me that they were expecting me. I was mind-blown! It was an awesome experience. I hope I get to meet aliens one day.



IF I HAD WINGS...

Ananya Dangra
Grade 6 F

If I had wings I'd be able to fly,
Across the vast expanse of sky,
With the Earth lying at my feet,
The clouds so white; the air smelling sweet.

Snow-capped mountains gleaming white,
Beneath me lay an alluring sight,
With a bird's eye view of rivers meandering by,
Their crystal-blue waters reflecting
the hues of the sky.

Majestic forests with trees so regal,
And I, soaring proudly like a victorious eagle.
The feeling is like no other you bet,
A joyful experience I will never forget !

What a priceless bounty of nature, for sure,
That almighty created for one and more.
Let's thank him for this visual delight,
Which is nothing less than a mesmerizing sight!



TRUE FRIENDSHIP

Bennet Jude
Grade 7 G

Friendship is a great treasure
Whose value no one can measure.
It gives you immense pleasure
And drives away all tension and pressure.
Friendship can never be bought
It comes to one unsought
It should be graded indeed and thought
For once gone it cannot again be caught.
Friendships is like a flower
That lasts forever
It has a beauty and the power
To keep you going for ever and ever.



SCHOOL DAYS

Yash Bhatia
Grade 7 C

When I joined GEMS Modern Academy in KG 1, I (naturally) cried a lot. After all, this was a new place with new people, new faces, new everything! And this was the place I would spend six hours a day? However, I soon learnt that this was a school like no other. Colourful desks, an activity a day, the list was endless. I had a whale of a time as I learnt addition, sight words, gravity and more as the years whizzed past. From KG 1 to Grade 7, I have seen changing campuses, logos and even names, friends and teachers coming and going, and have learnt many new lessons. The vibrant Dubai Modern High School had transformed into a more vibrant GEMS Modern Academy, and under the leadership of the various Principals, this school has made its mark not only in this country, but in the world.



क्रिकेट (हास्य की वूँदें)

Aryan Madan
Grade 7 E

क्रिकेट का जब चढ़ा बुखार, मन में आया एक विचार।
क्यों न मैं एक टीम बनाऊँ, पहला ही कप जीत के लाऊँ।
मैं बोला कप्तान बनूँगा, बैटिंग पहले मैं ही लूँगा।
मेरे हाथ में बैट जो आया, कपिल देव को मजा चखाया।
आखिर गेंद कपिल ने फेंकी, मैंने छक्के की कोशिश की।
क्रीज़ छोड़कर मैंने मारा, डर गया कपिल बेचारा।
गेंद लगी खिड़की से जाकर, शीशा चूर हुआ टकराकर।
लेकर डंडा मम्मी आई, सबसे छिप कर जान बचाई।
पड़ गए डण्डे मुझ पर चार, उतर गया क्रिकेट का बुखार।

وظيفتي في المستقبل

Mihir Viltalam
Grade 8 A



عندما أكبر سيكون عملي طبيب بيطري . الطبيب البيطري يساعد الحيوانات المريضة. ويسافر الى جميع انحاء العالم ويساعد الحيوانات انا كانت مريضة او جرحت, الممرضة تساعد الطبيب البيطري لإيجاد حل للمشكلة.

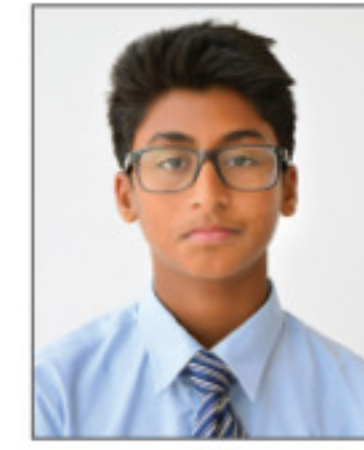
هناك نوعان من الأطباء البيطرين البعض لعلاج الحيوانات البرية والبعض الآخر لعلاج الحيوانات الأليفة. أولئك الذين يعالجون الحيوانات الأليفة عادة يبقون في المدن أو القرى وأولئك الذين يعالجون الحيوانات البرية يكونون عادة بعيدين عن المدن.

الأطباء البيطريون الذين يعالجون الحيوانات البرية يستخدمون المهدئات للتأكد من أن الحيوانات لا تهاجم. في دبي الأطباء البيطريون يعالجون أساساً الكلاب والقطط والطيور.



ABDUL KALAM
SACHIN
Grade 8 A

When the first cry was heard from the remote fishing village of Rameshwaram on 15th October 1931, no one would have perceived that the child would scale such great heights. The child grew to become India's foremost space scientist and later walked into Rashtrapathi Bhavan to become the 11th President of India. Dr. Abdul Kalam was revered for his innumerable qualities. Even after winning 40 honorary doctorates, he still was the epitome of humility. He envisioned that India would be a developed country by the year 2020, a dream which did not stop after he relinquished Presidency. He believed that the youth would decide India's future, and so set out to imbue in them a sense of nationalism. He taught youth to dream big and reiterated that nothing is impossible! An example was set to all Indians and the world by his life.



THE ARMY OF SOUND

Siddarth Tugnait
Grade 8 B

Bad choices
A big mistake
The sins of life
Enough to fill a lake

They say the past is the past
Yet the memories still last
Haunting each and every dream
Making things different from
what they seem

Corroding the cognition
Making each blink an imposition
Every night brings a mob of flashbacks
Each one a painful series of attacks.

Nightmare upon nightmare
A brutal inception
Calling it just a dream
A horrible misconception

Legions and hordes
Attacking me from all around
Traumatic screams engulf me
The army of sound.



THE EARTH
Devanshu Gupta
Grade 8 E

The earth is a magnificent ball.
It spins on its axis round and round
The earth has one third of ground
And two third of water.

The earth is a beautiful place,
It is fragile, so take care of it like a

precious vase
About the earth, if you do not care
Then in the forthcoming years,
see how much you'll have to bear.

The lava of the volcanoes come out
from the mountain tops
But when they erupt it's hard to stop.
When the ice caps melt, the ocean will swell
Over the deserts the clouds will cry
And the pastures will go dry
These will be the effects of global warming
If we do not understand nature's warning

On the earth humans are the ones
with most intelligence,
But they are the ones who fill the earth
with most dents.
Earth is a wonderful place
with so much of beauty
To preserve it with care is our duty.



SILVER LINE OF HOPE

Shantanu Gupta
Grade 8 E

The bird sitting in the cage,
Wondering, will it sit there all its age?
Envyng freedom, seldom getting a chance
to flap its wings
The caged bird was bold, bold enough to
wonder what will the outside world hold.
The free birds search for food and fly over
the neighborhood,

In the cage, the bird wished, "If I could, wish I
could, fly to my will and eat to my fill."
Day and night it's kept away from nature, its
captive and it knows it won't change in the future,

Yet there is a silver line of hope.
Free birds travel to continents and lands, to
forests with trees and beaches with sand.

One day the door of the cage was left open
and it got a chance to fly away as the path of
Freedom lay.

It slowly flapped its wings and took flight.
Freedom was truly a beautiful sight.



WATERS OF TIME

Amiya Johar
Grade 8 G1

As arcane as the ocean
As savage as its waves
As serene and tranquil as the ripples,
carvings upon the humble sands of life
it engraves.

Occasionally, the seas become turbulent;
Roaring waves crashing against
crumbling rocks
The skies blacken in grief and despair
As the water deepens, no ships can dock.

Lightning destroys the innocent tranquility,
as thunder drowns the crashing of
ravaging waves, awry.
The silhouette of a world in carnage,
stands dark against the sky.

But soon, the waves calm,
and life turns to look uphill,
the angry skies return to blue,
the screaming winds still.

The radiant sun glances meekly from
behind a wispy cloud,
and shines, golden, upon the renewed world.
The gentle rippling of the gleaming ocean,
soothing, after the storm unfurled.

An eternal, endless cycle of life;
Times of joy, times of strife. In contrast,
The latter, no doubt, is trying
But have faith, the hardship will never last.

رياضتي المفضلة

Mridul Nambiar
Grade 9 A



كرة القدم هي رياضتي المفضلة، وهي عبارة عن لعبة
جماعية بين فريقين على ميدان مستطيل به مرميين،
وللغز بهذه اللعبة يجب على أحد الفريقين إحراز
أهداف أكثر في مرمى الفريق الآخر، والأهداف تُسجل
إما بركل الكرة بواسطة القدم أو ضربها بالرأس وإدخالها
في الشبكة. فريق كرة القدم يتكون من أحد عشر لاعباً
ومجموعة من اللاعبين الإحتياطيين الذين قد تسنح لهم
الفرصة باللعب حسب قرارمدرب الفريق.

يتكون كل فريق من حارس مرمى ومدافعين ولاعبين
وسط ومهاجمين، وتكون مدة المباراة تسعون دقيقة
تقسم على شوطين أي فترتين. وما يميز هذه اللعبة
الجماعية هو وجود التنسيق والقوة العقلية واللياقة البدنية
العالية، والتي هي من متطلبات الفوز بلعبة كرة القدم
ولذا أنا أحبها. في بطولة كأس العالم الأخيرة 2014 كنت
من مشجعي فريق اسبانيا الذي خسر في المباراة وفازت
المانيا بالبطولة، ولاعب المفضل هو ليونيل ميسي.

في مدرستي لدينا ملعب لكرة القدم رائع، وأنا قائد فريق
الصف الثامن ولدينا مدريون من جنسيات مختلفة
وخبيرات مختلفة، وأنا افتخري أن أكون من ضمن فريق
اللعب مع الفريق الآخر.

THE ELPIS EXPERIENCE

Team Elpis

Team Elpis is a name that brings a smile to each
and every one of our faces. It was the experience
of a lifetime and as such, it is unforgettable. The
laughter, the stress and the excitement made
Team Elpis a revelatory experience as we
realized that through hard work, dedication and
effort, anyone can make a difference. >>

This initiative, launched by Dubai Cares, gave us a chance to express ourselves in an innovative manner and in way that cannot be mimicked by any other platform. We learnt a lot as the program enriched our own syllabus, but more importantly, it showed us that learning is not limited to the classroom. We were taught that knowledge can be found wherever one looks. Being a part of Team Elpis gave us a chance to grow and develop a new perspective.

The Elpis Experience was a crucial part of our journey through middle school and it had a large and positive impact on our lives. It helped us understand the importance of team work, independence, perseverance, determination and selflessness.

Being part of the Elpis Team helped us realize that material possessions are immaterial and attempting to win at all costs is foolish, for there are more important things in life like helping someone through a difficult time. The experience helped us learn things about ourselves that we never knew and for that, we will be forever grateful.



**MALALA AND CHRISTINA:
THE PERFECT
COMBINATION FOR
'I AM MALALA'?**

**Ayush Bhat
Grade 9 D**

Malala Yousafzai is an inspiration to students all around the world. While Malala's story should not be neglected, The British journalist writing for The Sunday Times who is also the co-writer of Malala's biography, Christina Lamb should be given the credit she is due.

A foreign correspondent since the age of 21, Christina specializes in covering war. Her

reports on the activities of the Taliban in Afghanistan were eye-opening. Christina was first introduced to Malala when she started following her blog in. Christina admired the bravery of this small girl who stood up for the girls in her society and openly expressed her indignation on the injustice carried out by terrorist groups.

Why Christina? Out of the countless number of reporters that covered war in Afghanistan, why is that Christina was chosen to assist Malala in voicing her opinion? It is important to understand that Christina was nowhere near the 'average' journalist. She not only interviewed locals but attempted to understand their hardships, their culture, their history and most importantly, their mentality.

All in all, I believe that Christina used her knowledge in the exact right proportion that gave the book not only Malala's personal touch that it necessitated but also the professionalism that could only be provided by an adroit writer. Hence, I firmly believe that Christina Lamb did an extraordinary job assisting Malala as a co-writer.



**THE
SILENT CRY**

**Aadi Jeevaraj
Grade 9 D**

The skies that once blushed pink,
Are choked now by malicious smoke stacks;
The bright stars that lived there,
shining in the darkness-
Now, cry silently dimming their lights.
And I cry silently, like them.

The animals that once trotted between
the trees, are now scattered, homeless.

The butterflies that once fluttered
through fields, have fallen,
their wings broken.
The birds that once dotted the sky,
now stray from their flock;
They that once chirped on the trees,
now wail to the sky.
And I cry silently, with them.

The sun rays that once caressed the trees,
now reaches out but recoils,
For there only remain the species that
triumphed- the humans.
In the darkness, the moon that once,
had the refulgent smile,
Now frowns, without a single tear to cry.
So I cry silently, for them.

The clouds that once witnessed
the work of Mother Earth,
Now meander through the sky,
with nothing to see.
They cry as well, silently yet deafening,
with all nature's fair works,
They sing a song of sorrow,
that the triumphant species fail to hear.
And I sing as well, crying silently.



**BEETHOVEN &
BEYOND**

**Veeksha Madhu
Grade 10 G 2**

October 25, 2015

Rejoining Modern in Class 9, I scored a complete blank when asked to enlist my subject choices as part of the admission process. As a boarder at a remote residential school in India, I'd spent much of my past years watching the tropical sun drown into the jagged rocky hills. My deliberate disengagement with the world's mundane

affairs left me unprepared for apparently consequential decisions like subject choices. A chance meeting with Mr. Axel Rodericks, Head of the Music Department, had our conversation veer into how he conducted the curriculum through experiential learning rather than drab textbooks. That had me hooked. I couldn't tell a symphony from a sonata, but I wasn't going to sweat it. Two years on, that choice has shaped my soul in an unexpected way.

The biographical study of composers and musicians from various genres of music is awe inspiring. In this constellation of the brightest stars, there's one that is distinct – Ludwig van Beethoven.

Scholarly dissections of Beethoven's life & works are abundantly available. Personally, one aspect of his life will always sail with me as I charter into choppy waters – his untiring strife to hold his own. Beethoven's compositions bent every existent rule of Classical music. His capacious piano sonatas with strange syncopations and extreme shifts in notes demanded a more robust and resonant instrument. Thus, the modern piano was created. Music conductors tossed away Beethoven's manuscripts as being impossible to conduct, but Beethoven's defiance has now made conducting an art. Orchestral members walked out of practice sessions in response to the ferocity of Beethoven's audacious demands for perfection. Today, the musician's platform is the stage of magic and revelation

The world is a smithy whose brutal furnace of mores and norms will try relentlessly to forge us into convenient molds, but the human spirit is empowered to break free from such entrapments to forge a masterpiece out of our life. Shun the highways that promise 'success' and walk the dust-laden fields instead, and at the unknown horizon you will meet yourself.



LE SPORT
Karan Kapoor Singh
Grade 10 A

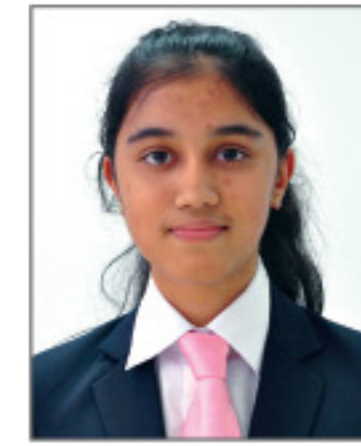
Il est nécessaire pour les étudiants de faire du sport. Le Sport améliore l'estime de soi et aide également les élèves à avoir de meilleures notes. Dans certaines écoles, les étudiants doivent avoir de bonnes notes pour rester dans l'équipe sportive de l'école. Le sport contribue à maintenir un mode de vie sain, l'amélioration de la stabilité mentale et aussi une matière qui réagit contre l'obésité ,

Le sport peut aider les élèves à entrer dans une université. Le sports a plusieurs avantages, et nous devons donc encourager les enfants à faire du sport. Il joue un grand rôle dans l'inscription dans les universités .Le sport a un effet positif sur la santé mentale et physique. Il peut aider les élèves à se concentrer dans leurs études et maintient un mode de vie sain. Quand les enfants jouent les sports qu'ils communiquent et l'utilisation de leur intelligence pour jouer à des jeux.

Faire du sport enseigne des valeurs morales aux enfants. Le sport enseigne la discipline, la coordination, le travail acharné et la concurrence. Lorsque les élèves font du sport, ils fixent des objectifs et atteindre les objectifs! Ensuite, ils les utilisent dans leurs études. Les gens qui pratiquent des sports sont plus ciblés et qu'ils font de mieux dans les études et obtiennent de bonnes notes!

Certaines personnes disent que le sport peut ruiner les études a cause de la quantité de temps perdus les étudiants nepeuvent pas avoir le temps d'étudier. Je ne suis pas d'accord. À mon avis, le sport a de nombreux avantages. Le sport aide l'esprit et peut aider les élèves à mieux se concentrer. Les étudiants qui pratiquent des sports sont généralement plus intelligents.

J' encourage tous les étudiants à faire du sport. Les sports sont extrêmement utiles et peuvent bénéficier les personnes mentalement et physiquement. J'aime les sports!



പൂവിന്റെ മനസ്സ്
Nain Elsa Thomas
Grade 10 G2

ഞങ്ങൾ പുഷ്പങ്ങൾ!! മനുഷ്യജീവിതത്തിന്റെ ഒരു വലിയ ഭാഗമായി മാറിയിരിക്കുന്നു. സന്തോഷത്തിലും സങ്കടത്തിലും വീരന്മാരുടെ ആവേശത്തിലും പങ്കെടുക്കുന്നു. ആഘോഷപ്പന്തലിൽ ഞങ്ങൾ നിറഞ്ഞുനിന്നു... പലനിറങ്ങളിലും രൂപങ്ങളിലും ഗന്ധങ്ങളിലും. അവിടെ ഒരു മംഗളകർമ്മം നടക്കാനുള്ള ഒരുക്കങ്ങൾ പൂർത്തിയായി. ഞങ്ങളെക്കൂടാതെ അത് മുഴുവനാവില്ലല്ലോ! ദേശാന്തരങ്ങൾ യാത്രചെയ്തു പൂക്കൾ എത്തിയിരിക്കയാണവിടെ, വീടിനു പുറത്തും അകത്തും എല്ലാം. പിറ്റേന്ന് നേരംപുലർന്നു. അതിഥികളെ വരവേൽക്കാൻ പടുപാവായടുത്ത ബാലികമാർ ഇരുകൈകളാലും ഞങ്ങളെ വാരിയെടുത്ത് പൂവർഷം ചെയ്തുകൊണ്ടിരുന്നു. ഞങ്ങളെ ഒന്നിച്ചു ചേർത്തുകെട്ടി ബൊക്കൈൾ ആക്കി പലർക്കും സമ്മാനിച്ചു. വധുവരന്മാർ പൂമാലകൾ പരസ്പരം അണിഞ്ഞുകൊണ്ടു ഞങ്ങളെ സാക്ഷിയാക്കി ജീവിതം മുഴുവൻ ഒന്നായിരിക്കാൻ പ്രതിജ്ഞയെടുത്തു.

മറ്റൊരിടത്ത് രാഷ്ട്രീയ സമ്മേളനത്തിൽ മുഖ്യ അതിഥിയുടെ കഴുത്തിൽ കിടന്നപ്പോൾ എന്തെന്നില്ലാത്ത അഭിമാനം തോന്നി. പക്ഷെ ഘോരഘോരം പ്രസംഗം തുടങ്ങിയപ്പോൾ അതു താങ്ങാനുള്ള മനോബലം ഇല്ലാതെ അവിടെക്കിടന്നു വിറക്കുകയായിരുന്നു. മനസ്സും ശരീരവും തളർന്നപ്പോയ മറ്റു അവസരങ്ങളും ഓർക്കാനുണ്ട്. മരിച്ചയാളെ ആദരിക്കാൻ ആളുകൾ വന്നുകൊണ്ടേയിരുന്നു. അവരുടെയെല്ലാം കയ്യിൽ പുഷ്പച്ചക്രങ്ങളും പുഷ്പഹാരങ്ങളും ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നു. ഞങ്ങൾ പുഷ്പങ്ങൾ... ദുർബലമായ മനസ്സിന്റെ ഉടമകൾ. അവിടെത്തെ അന്തരീക്ഷവും കണ്ണീരണിഞ്ഞ ബന്ധുക്കളുടെ ദുഃഖവും സഹിക്കാൻ ഞങ്ങൾക്കാവില്ല. അവിടമാകെ ചന്ദനത്തിരിയുടെ ഗന്ധമാണ് നിറഞ്ഞുനിന്നത്. പൂക്കളുടെ ഗന്ധമായിരുന്നില്ല. ആ ദിനങ്ങൾ ഇനിയും വരാതിരിക്കാൻ ആഗ്രഹിച്ചുപോയി.

ആരാധനാലയങ്ങളിൽ ഞങ്ങൾ സന്തുഷ്ടരായിരുന്നു. ഭക്തിസാന്ദ്രമായ ആ പരിസരത്തിൽ ഞങ്ങളും അറിയാതെ മിഴികൾക്കുപ്പിന്നിന്നു. പൂക്കൾ പരിശുദ്ധിയുടെ പര്യായങ്ങളാണ്. നിങ്ങളുടെ സൗന്ദര്യം സംരക്ഷിക്കാനും ആരോഗ്യം സൂക്ഷിക്കാനും ഞങ്ങൾ ഉല്സുകരാണ്. നഗരമധ്യത്തിലെ പൂന്തോട്ടത്തിൽ ഞങ്ങളെപ്പോലെ ചിരിക്കുന്ന കുട്ടികൾ കളിച്ചുതിമിർത്തു. മരുഭൂമിയെപ്പോലും സ്വർഗ്ഗതുല്യമാക്കാൻ ഞങ്ങൾക്ക് കഴിയുന്നില്ലേ!!!



THE PINK WARRIOR...

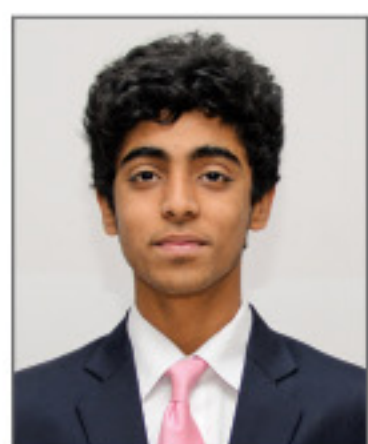
Gokul Prajeeth
Grade 11 A

Cancer, cancer, cancer
Is there anything as dreadful as cancer!
People hate it, and
The fear within curses it!
But there are quite a few,
Handful of the bravest hearts we knew!
Ups and downs they have been through,
No cry no hopes they knew,
But yet inspired us as they grew!

Though times have often passed by,
Yet have they never lost courage, oh my!
Stayed strong they did,
Survived with pride they did!

Times can be tough they said,
Be graceful for life they, reiterated!
Give up is all you hear from the world,
they quoted,
But give it one more try, they requested!

(Prize Winner at The Poetic Heart 2015)



LE TRAVAIL DES ENFANTS DANS LE MONDE

Vaibhav Pabhreja
IB Year 1

Le travail des enfants, un fait très commun fait référence à tout travail ou activité qui les prive de leur enfance. Près de 250 millions d'enfants dans le monde d'aujourd'hui sont des victimes de travaux enfantins. En effet, ce sont des activités qui portent préjudice à la santé physique et mentale des enfants et qui entravent leur bon développement.

C'est inimaginable comment un enfant de mon âge, travaille dans une usine ou dans un restaurant comme un garçon. C'est agaçant! Un enfant qui doit étudier dans une école avec les autres étudiants font les petits boulots pour soutenir sa famille. Dans beaucoup de pays, surtout les pays comme l'Inde et l'Afrique, cette pratique est très dominant. Maintenant, est-ce que cette pratique est justifiable? Est-ce bien?

A mon avis, ce type de traitement est complètement injustifiable. D'abord, Cette pratique doit être interdite dans tous les pays et il devrait y avoir les des lois et des règlements strictes contre cette pratique. Deuxièmement, si les gens ne suivent ces lois et régulations, ils doivent être pénalisé.

Le gouvernement doit donner l'éducation primaire gratuite pour les étudiants dont les familles vivent sous le seuil de pauvreté. Ainsi, tous les enfants recevront l'éducation primaire qui augmente le taux d'alphabétisation et aussi, ces enfants ont une meilleure chance de gagner leur vie, de faire des meilleures emplois et de soutenir leur famille. Je crois que l'éducation est un endroit pour tous et ne doit pas être enlevé.



SOBRE ECUADOR

Gayatri John
IB Year 2

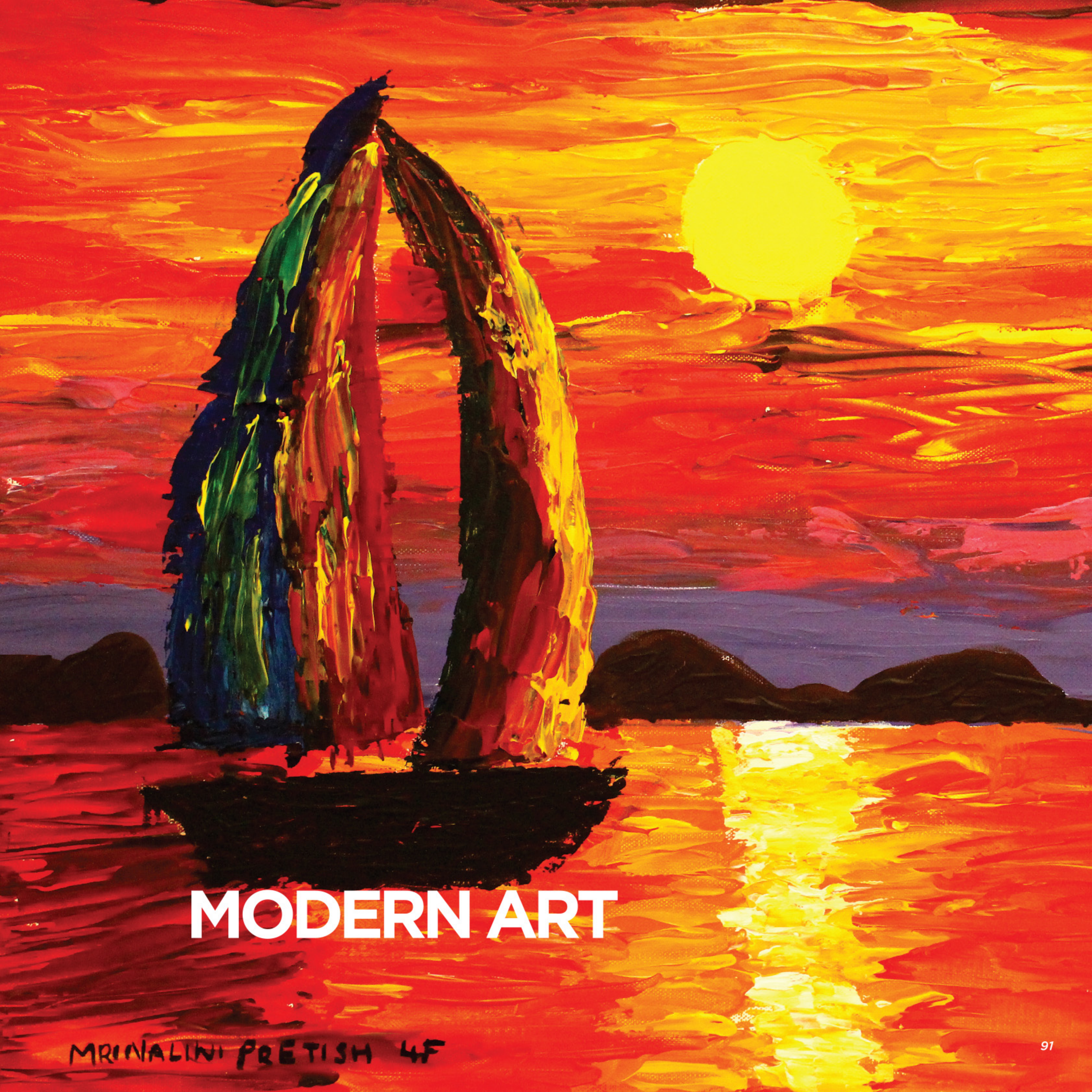
Ecuador, oficialmente denominado República del Ecuador, es un país de América ubicado en la región noroccidental de América del Sur. La capital del país es Quito, y la ciudad más poblada del país es Guayaquil. La lengua

oficial de Ecuador es el español, hablado por un 98% de la población. La presidente es Rafael Correa y vice presidente es Jorge Glas. La moneda es Dólar estadounidense. La Lema es " Dios, Patria y Libertad."

Ecuador posee un área de 283 561 km , lo que lo transforma en el cuarto país más pequeño de América del Sur, y posee una población que supera los 16 millones de habitantes. El actual Estado ecuatoriano está conformado por cinco funciones estatales: la Función Ejecutiva, la Función Legislativa, la Función Judicial, la Función Electoral y la Función de Transparencia y Control Social.

El país tiene un clima tropical y húmedo, la calidad del aire es muy buena por la presencia de grandes bosques naturales, parques nacionales y la selva amazónica, el 20 % del país es reserva ecológica. Debido a la presencia de la cordillera de los Andes y según la influencia del mar, el Ecuador continental se halla climatológicamente fragmentado en diversos sectores. Ecuador es el sexto país con más aceleración de envejecimiento de Latinoamérica tras Costa Rica, Chile, Argentina, Cuba y Uruguay, después de que censos en 2010 arrojaran resultados de que más del 17 % de la población pasa de los 65 años, y más del 40 % de la población es adulta-media, y de que la edad promedio sea de entre los 27,3 y los 35,8 años, aunque todavía es un país con una población joven.

Ecuador también es conocida por su riqueza ecológica, dispone de muchas plantas y animales endémicos, como las de las Islas Galápagos. Es uno de los diecisiete países megadiversos del mundo. Ecuador es una nación hermosa que encarna muchos valores hispanos.



MODERN ART

MRINALINI PRETISH 4F



Anirudh Rohitkumar, Grade 3 C



Alisha Malvani, Grade 4 J



Dhrumi Jine, Grade 3 J



Aditi Singhdev, Grade 4 G



Rayaan Irani, Grade 2 D



Anwasha Mukherjee, Grade 5 F



Shruti Srikumar, Grade 8 G1



Bhoomi Satwani, Grade 9 G1



Tanmay G. Atreyas, Grade 2 D



Borbz Desiree Moraes, Grade 4 D



Taru Jain, Grade 4 E



Dhruvank Sarda, Grade 2 H



Sara Chaudhuri, Grade 2 H



Anaissa Irani, Grade 4 B



Rudrani Mukherjee, Grade 5 B



Ridge Rodericks, IB 1



Aanya Rajput, Grade 2 H



Nikunj Garg, Grade 2 C



Saesha Tonapi, Grade 2 I



Hiranya Patel, Grade 2 I

Modern will
always be home!



I still remember that lazy Thursday afternoon. I was an eager 8 year old, and mum asked me what I wanted to be when I grew up. I promptly replied, "A Doctor!" She smiled and sat in silence for two minutes, before she said, "That was my dream too."

Looking back at my years in Modern, the only person I told this story to was Mrs. Malhotra, and forgot about it soon enough. As I grew up, my interest in Biology piqued purely because of the perfectionist Mrs. Neogi was. I wanted to be just like her and I wanted all my homework back without any red marks from her! As far as I remember she had such an influence on all ten of us, whom she transformed from students to doctors. Scattered all across India; Shruti Gothoskar and Seerat Anand in Belgaum; Indu Matthew and Niharika Vennelaganti in Chennai, Lipisha Agarwal in Manipal, Pinky Sawlani in Pune, Roshni Rajan and Sreehari Dinesh in Mangalore, Shipra Soni in Wardha, and me in Mumbai; we are the amalgamation of Mrs. Neogi's passion and Modern's "striving for excellence".

Modern taught me to deal with looming deadlines, time management and most importantly, accountability and clinical leadership skills. For example, an eighteen-year-old boy was brought to the Emergency Room one day and I watched him breathe his last. It not only shook me but in a strange way also made me strong enough to shoulder responsibility. There were many hard days and some very easy days through the years in Medschool; but as the old saying goes, "If you have one good friend, you can get through anything." Even if it's something as terrible as consecutive all-nighters! As Macbeth popularly said, "That is a step on which I must fall down, or else o'erleap, for in my way it lies." (Miss you Mrs. Ramesh) Exams felt exactly like that. On the other hand, the respect and trust with which patients treated me, was such a humbling experience and it just made me want to work harder! I will never forget the first day I scrubbed in and assisted a surgery, I felt like I had conquered the world! I will never forget the pride on my parents' faces when they gifted me my first stethoscope, the traffic policeman that let me go because of my white coat and the joy of my teachers back home.

University had very little teacher-student interaction, as I was used to in Modern, where many of my teachers were my friends and gave me the tough-love I needed. Modern gave me a lifetime of memories and friends; and made me who I am today. It will always be home!

Five years of Medschool flew by and it was 30th December 2015, the day I became a Doctor and was served a plate full of worldly responsibilities with a side of gooseflesh and pride. I step into this world with the hope of bringing a smile to people's faces, spreading happiness and inspiring people to believe in themselves.

Thank you Modern for making me the person that I am today.

Love Mishika

Reflections from Dr. Mishika Khithani (Batch of 2010)



House Report

AQUILA



House Captain: Akshay P. Kalyan

Do all things well...

"In order to succeed, we must first believe that we can."- Nikos Kazantzakis

The Academic Year 2015-2016 was a bittersweet year for the Aquila House. Amidst some wins and some losses the House Spirit kept the students striving towards glory steadfastly. The House Captain Akshay Kalyan was an exemplar of fortitude, who continuously encouraged and pushed the house to give its best in every activity.

This year saw victories for Aquila in Badminton, Football and Table Tennis. Aquila came first in Badminton in the seniors category, second in Senior Football and second in Junior Table-Tennis. Moreover, Aquila came second in junior Scrabble, the first of its kind.

While the academic year was far from spectacular for the Aquila House, it serves as an indicator to the students to identify their weaknesses and strengthen themselves. The successes and failures of the past year will remind the students to face the next with heightened vigour and determination, and to be optimistic in all their endeavours, and pave the way for a Aquila's resurgence.

"Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence."- Helen Keller



House Captain: Ananya Shrivastava

The year has been extraordinary for Aquila house with innumerable achievements and experiences!

We started off promisingly with the Aquila house girls acing the senior cricket inter-house tournament. The senior girls also placed first in inter-house football and badminton competition. At the senior basketball tournament, the hard work of the girls paid off as they placed second, missing the first position by just a few points. In the academic field, Aquila ranked first in senior elocution and second in the junior spelling bee.

Our juniors are equally competent. They dazzled us by their excellent performance in basketball where they bagged the first position as also their success in tennis and scrabble was commendable. Not to miss the **FIRST POSITION** in the middle school sports day!

In the long awaited and much anticipated swimming gala, the academic year was brought to a momentous end with the girls winning the gala for the first time in years. The Aquila house team comprising of Ananya Shrivastava, Shreya Verma and Dhruvika Sharma did us proud by placing first in almost every event in the gala and placed first overall.

The hard work and fortitude of the Aquila house girls throughout the year paid off as Aquila house was declared the overall winners of the prestigious Annual house cup for the year 2015-2016.

The many triumphs and accomplishments of the house would have not been possible without the motivation and stimulation from the house teachers. As the house paces well out of another year, we hope to soar to greater glory in the future. Well done Aquila! Way to go!



House Report **CYGNUS**



House Captain: Rishabh Guwalani

"We cannot accomplish all that we need to do without working together." I think Cygnus, the house that strives for perfection, perfectly exemplifies the above quote. Throughout the year, the boys in Red have displayed tremendous amount of hard work, perseverance, and commitment

Winning the Senior Badminton, Basketball and Cricket tournament, we bagged a stupendous 21 points and were off to a great start. The juniors, inspired, motivated and enthused by their fellow seniors, did us proud as they topped the table in the Junior Quiz, Table Tennis and Badminton tournament. These events were more than just an opportunity to rise on the points table. They helped mould us into self-disciplined, diligent individuals who worked brilliantly together as a team.

After a great win last year, Cygnus, rather unexpectedly lost the Inter-House Music Competition this year, placing 3rd in the overall positions table. Although the competition wasn't a complete success, it taught us that nothing was possible without teamwork. If it weren't for the 50 students in Red coming together, and working collectively as a team, Cygnus would've been unable to put up such a magnificent performance. The Senior-School Sports Day was a clear cut win for us. Dominating the points table throughout, Cygnus ended up with a colossal 200 points and added this event to its list of victories. Saving the best for the last, the boys did us proud once again as they glided through the waters and emerged victorious in the Swimming Gala with a massive 84 point lead.

All in all, Cygnus ended the year with a total of 124 points and thus, for the third time in a row, Cygnus triumphed and secured the House Cup. For us, the sky is the limit, and we hope to continue this winning streak in the many years to come.



House Captain: Rosa Anil George

Teamwork is the secret that enables ordinary people to achieve extraordinary results. The year 2015-16 has been a glorious journey for the girls of Cygnus as they grew together in an atmosphere of perseverance and ambition. Bagging the junior elocution trophy and securing second place in Senior Badminton and Senior Spelling Bee, the first term was a journey that took us by storm.

As we moved into the second term, we truly lived up to our motto 'To labour is to pray'. The fiery energy and indomitable spirit of the juniors resulted in Cygnus sweeping the Junior table tennis and basketball trophies. Junior tennis also secured second place as did senior elocution and table tennis. On the debate front, the girls secured the trophy for the second year running and kept the red flag flying high.

Both the juniors and senior's hard efforts paid off in the third term as they won quiz and Scrabble respectively in the third term. However the crowning glory of the third term was our phenomenal success at Sports Day. And in that moment, as we swept the awards, we grew from a House to a family. Truly, the swan soared high in the year of 2015-16 under the glistening sky of hopes and dreams.



House Report

ORION



House Captain: Soham Agarwal

The Hunters have had another successful academic year. We finished second in the house table battling it out for the first place till the very end. This year was one filled with triumphs and failures but come what may the hunters do not fail to live up to their motto "Labour through faith" and give their very best in every activity whether on the field or in the classroom. The key to this year's success was the contribution of each and every member of the house regardless of their age.

Orion had a great start to the year placing first in the Senior Spelling Bee, Senior Quiz and the Junior elocution. But we didn't stop there, we placed second in not only Senior and Transition Cricket but also Senior Badminton and Junior Spelling Bee. This was a glorious term for Orion finishing off right on top of the table. Although second term was not as great as the previous one, Our Junior Tennis team made us immensely proud by placing first in the tennis tournament. The IHMC was a phenomenal victory. The many months of planning and practice finally paid off with Orion coming in second. Our Senior Debate and Elocution team brought us vital points by placing second in each of their events. The Junior Basketball team contributed no less, coming second in the tournament. The year ended on a high note as Orion swept away in Junior and Senior Scrabble with a complete whitewash by Sanchit Kapoor, our national level scrabble and spelling bee champion. Saurav Nair lead the house to victory in the swimming gala. Our House Captain Soham Agrawal also made our house proud when he stood as the Valedictorian of the school.

As a house, we grew not only closer to each other but also to our teachers and school. It is this amazing house spirit that takes our school to greater heights by fostering a sense of family and belonging within each and every pupil of our school.



House Captain: Shweta Madhusudanan

Games and sports are an integral part of a student's life. There are many benefits of games and sports in education. Outdoor games such as football, cricket, badminton, tennis, etc. have many benefits. The participation in any one of them is not a fruitless or frivolous pursuit. They may not ensure any immediate gain. But the outdoor games gradually build up a healthy body and make the mind energetic. Students learn to cope with difficult situations. By displaying their feats before many spectators, they can overcome their nervousness. As this year comes to an end, Orion House would like to celebrate its participation and its awards that it received in the various sporting events throughout the year.

In the biggest event of the year, the Annual Athletic Meet, the senior girls of Orion House bagged the second place overall with our girls receiving an impressive number of medals. The house was represented by gifted athletes such as Becky Thomas, Joanne Joseph, Natalia Ruben and Allison Pinto. With the loud cheers and support from the rest of the house, these girls could do no wrong.

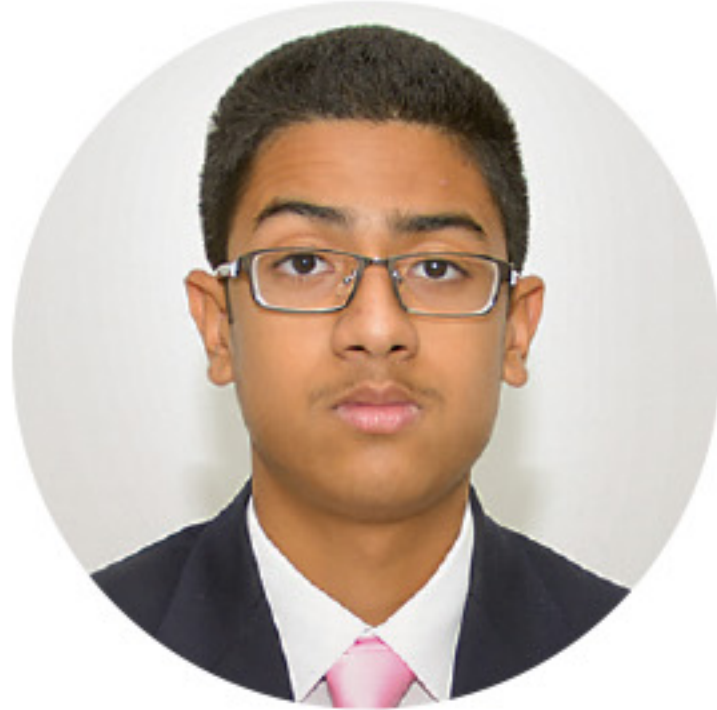
At the Annual Athletic Meet for the Middle School, Orion was not very lucky and placed fourth. However it is the sheer determination and effort put in by our girls that we applaud. The crowd witnessed true sportsmanship displayed by Vibha Nair, Heer Gouri, Nikita Pramod and the rest of the team who sacrificed many mornings and afternoons practicing.

At the Inter House Swimming Gala, the Senior School girls placed third overall. Our house showcased shining swimmers like Gayathri John, Dhayitha Palavar and Ramya Manoj who won several medals. It was a fierce tournament where we were represented by masterly swimmers.



House Report

PEGASUS



House Captain: Mathew Jose

Right from the get go, the boys of Pegasus went about their duties with a burning passion and a flaming ambition to succeed. Over the year, we as a house have learned to face various challenges and to overcome them with our hard work and perseverance- and this year Pegasus has not only tried to do justice to our moto "Reach for the stars" but has done so with aplomb and confidence. We have come together as a team and in doing so, have fostered a feeling of friendship and brotherhood among ourselves.

The year for Pegasus had not started as intended and yet our students did us proud by clutching victory in the junior spelling bee. With raised spirits we began the second term with a bang. The senior elocution saw our boys' tremendous effort come to fruition when Pegasus won the top prize. Team work and dedicated practice saw the junior basketball and cricket team place first. Moreover, our juniors did us proud by winning the hotly contested spelling bee competition and not to be left out the middle school boys of Pegasus House did a spectacular job of winning the first Middle School Sports day.

The icing on the cake this year was our victory at IHMC. For the very first time in the history of the competition, our house placed first. The Pegasus house ensemble worked hard together to come up with a light and peppy script, excellent performances in the Senior Solo, Junior Solo and Duet category singing their hearts out in triumph. This massive win was made possible by the dedicated commitment of each and every member of the choir and the house.

Teamwork and camaraderie was what pulled us through the year and is what will always pull the flying horse towards further glory. We will always strive to reach for the stars. And success for us isn't far out.



House Captain: Sanam Sandeep Gavankar

Winning is not all that matters. Rather, it is hard work and dedication of a team, or an individual, which is what matters the most. Pegasus has not won in every category, but the girls have brought immeasurable pride to our house teachers and students. Watching our students grow as individuals, is a moment of immense honour, and shall never be forgotten.

With our seniors winning the basketball tournament, the fierce competition began, and the passion and enthusiasm did not waver until the end of the year. Football season kicked off, with our girls bagging second position by a close margin. Our badminton, cricket, and swimming teams were also able to secure second position in each of their tournaments, to the delight of our house.

This year, not just our seniors made us proud, but our juniors have grown to heights we thought impossible. Our basketball team placed second, due to their dedication and long training sessions. The badminton team was also able to secure second position, with their hard-work and optimistic outlooks. Our juniors have grown in ways of sportsmanship, and have always made sure to have fun on the playing field, while putting their best foot forward. We are sure that they will continue to make us proud.

Pegasus exceeded our motto "Reach for the stars", when we placed first in the Inter House Music Competition for the first time. Our singers were able to stun the crowd, with Naomi and Rachel not only leaving the crowd speechless, but also bagging first place with their solos.

This year has truly been a formidable year for Pegasus, with us reaching new heights. We will continue to do the best we can, with our passion and love for our house. None of our achievements could be possible without the guidance of our teachers, and the dedication of our seniors. The most important people, however, are the students themselves, who devote their talents and time to our house.



Kindergarten

The Teaching faculty with the Principal, Vice Principal, Head Primary, Head Kindergarten and Supervisors



Primary School

The Teaching faculty with the Principal, Vice Principal, Head Primary and Supervisors



Middle and Senior School

The Teaching faculty with the Principal, Vice Principal, Dean of Studies and Senior Supervisors



Administrative Staff

Administrative Staff with the Principal and Vice Principal

LEARN FERVENTLY, LIVE HUMBLY,
LEAD BOLDLY, PASS IT ON.





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GEMS Modern Academy



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