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## A Message from the Head of School

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Since its inception in 1996, our school has been blessed with remarkable characters - students and teachers - who have helped shape the essence of our community.

It is a community that continues to thrive and I always take great pride when showing guests around both our Junior and Senior Schools.

Although we have a tremendous record of academic success in public examinations, we aim to provide far more than impressive grades. We are committed to stretching the minds of all our students, encouraging them to think for themselves, to lead others, to ask questions, to take responsibility.

Our school has a wonderfully positive ethos, an environment where students encourage one another to try something new without the fear of failure; it is this incredible atmosphere which allows them to flourish in all aspects of school life and to enter the outside world armed with self-confidence and humility.

Happiness, passion, dedication and school spirit are not that easy to convey in a prospectus. If you would like a 'real' tour of the school, I would be delighted to show you around!

**Mrs Elizabeth Moir**  
MA Hons (Oxford) Dip.Ed. (Oxford)  
Head of School





## Academic

### Our Philosophy

Teaching our students how to learn is just as important as teaching them what to learn. Rather than simply loading their memory with the thoughts of others, we try to encourage all our students to think for themselves, and to ask questions as well as to provide answers.

We understand that our students need to take responsibility for their own learning to be ready for university and the challenges ahead. We nurture self-motivated students who are used to working independently and whose genuine interest in their subjects makes them life-long learners.

We aim to provide the best possible education we can to each and every one of our students, individually tailoring each student's curriculum to meet their own personal needs. With the highest teacher to student ratio of all leading international schools in Colombo, we are committed to providing all students with the individual attention they require. We expect every student to give their best at all times and give them all the help they need to ensure they do.

### Curriculum

Elizabeth Moir School has a progressive international curriculum that blends new and innovative approaches to learning with a traditional focus on basic skills such as grammar and arithmetic. We recognise the central importance of students learning key skills they will need later in life but also that school should still involve learning facts, and aim to retain the best of both conventional and modern practice. The curriculum is regularly updated to stimulate students' interest by exposure to the latest cutting-edge developments in each subject, from Artificial Intelligence in ICT to Climate Change in Geography.

#### Junior School

The Junior School uses the latest British textbooks for Mathematics and English. Formal teaching of numbers and letters begins in Reception. By the time a student has left Playgroup, they will be expected to read and write the lower case phonetic alphabet; to recognise and write the first sound of a given picture; to identify, count and write numbers to twenty; and to perform simple picture addition.

Literacy and Numeracy are the main focus of the curriculum throughout the school. Students also start learning IT from Reception, while Science lessons begin in Junior 1. Art, Music & Movement, Drama and PE are a formal part of the curriculum throughout the school, while Swimming classes begin in KG1.

Where appropriate, the school uses cross-curricular techniques when studying various topics. In KG1 and KG2, these topics take place in General Studies, and for Junior 1 – Junior 3 in General Knowledge. Junior 4 and Junior 5 study History and Geography separately. Current topics include: People Who Help Us, Dinosaurs, The Solar System, Ancient China, The Vikings, The Rainforest, Birds and Ancient Egypt.

### Senior School

The Senior School follows British syllabuses that are adapted to the school's Sri Lankan context, so that students gain the knowledge they need to compete in the fast-changing 21<sup>st</sup> century global village without neglecting the value of the customs and heritage of the country they live in. In the Arts, we nurture and encourage students' originality, creativity and free thinking, like the top British schools. In Mathematics, Science and Technology, however, we appreciate that standards are now often higher in India, China, Japan and Korea and ensure we keep ahead of the latest advances in these countries.

### Forms 1-3

Coming to the Senior School involves lots of exciting changes for our students. Students have the chance to work in A Level laboratories in Science and learn the basic scientific method. In English, while there is still a strong emphasis on basic writing skills, students also

have their first taste of Literature, studying texts as diverse as *The Tempest* by Shakespeare and *The Village By The Sea* by Anita Desai.

In addition to English, Mathematics, Science, History, Geography and ICT, students in Forms 1-3 also have the choice of starting to learn French, Sinhala or Tamil. They also attend PE, Swimming and Art classes as part of their curriculum.

### Forms 4 & 5

In Form 4, students begin the IGCSE course set by Edexcel, the examining body that includes the former London Examinations. IGCSE is recognised by universities and employers around the world and students' results in this examination are the first step to university admission. The course lasts two years with students taking the examinations at the end of Form 5.

English Language and Mathematics are compulsory for all students. Students must choose at least six more subjects from the following list: English Literature, Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Human Biology, History, Geography, ICT, French, Sinhala, Tamil and Art.

## Nirasha Guruge



“What stood out for me about Elizabeth Moir School were the teachers, who all played such an enormous role in our school lives. They were all very qualified and never failed to give us the correct guidance and support. Mrs. Moir and the other teachers were incredibly helpful when I was applying to university. Since they have all attended top universities themselves, they were a great source of advice. Without them, I doubt that I would have made it to Harvard.

I loved the diversity of Elizabeth Moir School. It definitely made my transition to college life easier. The friendships I formed with my peers and teachers are very precious. Everyone was incredibly friendly and this meant that the two years that I spent at the school was the best time of my life.”

*Nirasha was Sri Lanka's National Squash Champion from the age of 14 and one of three of our students to represent Sri Lanka at the 15th Asian Games in Doha. She received an Edexcel Award for gaining 3 A grades at A Level and won a full scholarship to Harvard, where she was a CSA All-American each year.*



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## 6<sup>th</sup> Form

6<sup>th</sup> Form students study the GCE Advanced (A Level) course set by Edexcel. These qualifications are recognised by universities in Britain, the USA, Australia, Singapore, Malaysia, India, Canada, and elsewhere.

Students must select 3 or 4 subjects from: Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, History, English Literature, Geography, Economics and ICT.

These are the core academic subjects recognised as being most academically rigorous by top universities. Most British universities now have lists of 'non-preferred' subjects including Commerce, Accounts, Psychology and Law. Students who take one of these subjects are at a disadvantage and students who take two are not even considered.



Sir Arthur C. Clarke's visit to Elizabeth Moir School

## Beyond the Curriculum

The Curriculum is just the starting-point of our students' education, not a limit to their ambitions. We encourage all students to pursue their interests further through independent reading and research, and provide a wealth of reference material in both Junior and Senior School Libraries, including international newspapers and periodicals. Whether it is architecture, classical music or politics, we know that a passion fostered at a young age will stay with students as they grow up and enrich their lives.

Students are encouraged to take an interest in current events and the world around them through activities ranging from the weekly 'Brainy Bulb' questions in the Junior School to the annual Inter House Quiz at the Senior School. There are also Theme Weeks each term at the Senior School on important topical issues: themes have included Nanotechnology, Genetic Engineering and Nuclear Proliferation.

## Educational Trips

Throughout History, Sri Lanka has been admired for its natural beauty and for containing so much variety within a small area – from beaches to rainforests, from the Cultural Triangle to the Hill Country. Every year we take students on educational trips around the whole island to take advantage of all these wonderful opportunities and enable students to see what they have been learning first-hand.

Reception's annual visit to Dehiwala Zoo is a real highlight of the year for our youngest class, from the excitement of going on the school bus for the first time to seeing their favourite animals. Trips continue throughout the Junior School: Playgroup visit the Aquarium; KG2 visit temples, churches and mosques as part of their education into different faiths; and Junior 2 take an excursion to Thalangama Lake to learn more about birds. There are also trips to streams and a plastic factory.

At the Senior School, History students go on annual trips to Polonnaruwa and Anuradhapura and other nearby sites, as part of their study of Sri Lankan History each Summer Term. As well as conducting their own independent fieldwork, Geography students go on regular visits to rivers, coasts, factories and national parks, investigating issues as diverse as the environmental effects of tourism, corporate social responsibility and the impact of the tsunami. A Level Biology students also go to the Genetech laboratory in Colombo, a pioneer in genetic engineering, to witness DNA replication and genetic testing.

In addition, Science students attend the Science Camp organised by the National University of Singapore. They gain valuable insight into university life as well as working in some of the best laboratories in Asia and listening to lectures by world-renowned experts.

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## Facilities

### Junior School

In the Junior School, each year has their own classroom, which is their home in school. All academic subjects, including Science, are taught in this classroom. The classrooms all provide a fun, lively and visually stimulating environment in which to learn with colourful furniture and posters. Frequently updated displays of the students' work encourage them to take pride in what they do and its presentation.

There is a separate Science Room, which students can visit, that holds many resources to help keep the children fascinated in the subject. As well as an incubator with enough room to hatch 16 eggs, there is a water turbine, stethoscopes, interactive models of the solar system, sphygmomanometers (for measuring pressure), generators and a partial skeleton.

The ICT room has a broadband internet connection and the latest LED monitors and is fully equipped to cater for the needs of all classes. While the younger classes can engage in online activities to help them develop key skills in English and Mathematics, older students focus on software such as the latest versions of Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Access and Publisher. Junior 4 and 5 also learn basic programming skills with PC Logo.

The Library has a warm and welcoming environment to promote children's love of reading and contains both the latest age-appropriate fiction and extensive reference material on the topics studied by the students. Every student is helped to choose books to borrow every week and Reception to KG1 are given a special 'Book Bag' so that taking books home becomes a special event. The Library was recently given a new look and is regularly restocked with new publications, often personally chosen by the Head of the Junior School, based on recommendations from educational specialists.

### Senior School

In the Senior School, classrooms are subject-specific and contain resources relevant to the field, from displays to 6<sup>th</sup> Form Reference Libraries. All classrooms have computers, internet connections and multimedia facilities, including projectors where needed for teachers to use the most up to date videos and presentations. Each student at the Senior School is also given a locker to store their belongings.

On the ground floor of the main teaching block, 'The Barn', there are three large purpose-built Science Laboratories for Chemistry, Biology and Physics. They are fully equipped for A Level practical classes, including an oscilloscope, photometer, respirometer, light gates, ripple tanks and Boyle's Law apparatus. Experiments could range from dissecting a heart or eye to distillation, titration or synthesis of an azo dye. Each laboratory has separate teaching and practical areas to ensure that practical

demonstrations and experiments can be incorporated into every class, not only set practical lessons.

There are two fully-equipped Computer Rooms, which are available for use by teachers of all subjects and for students to work independently, as well as for ICT classes. They contain the latest hardware and software for applications from desktop publishing and web design to film and sound editing, graphics and animation.







## Student Progress

Elizabeth Moir School is committed to involving parents in their children's education and giving them regular updates on their children's progress in school. Open Days for parents to meet their children's teachers are held every term and parents receive detailed reports at the end of each term with individually written comments from all the relevant Subject Teachers, their Class Teacher and the Head of School. Class Teachers are also in regular communication with parents throughout the year and parents can meet teachers at any time by appointment. There are Parents' Evenings for all Junior School parents at the start of each academic year and for Senior School parents at key junctures of their children's academic careers, such as when they have to select their IGCSE and A Level subjects.

## Learning Support

Elizabeth Moir School is committed to giving all students the support they need to cope with academic classes and to individually tailoring the curriculum for each student, so that everyone can move at their own pace.

### EFL

English as a Foreign Language (EFL) classes are provided at both schools for students whose English is not proficient when they enter school. Students normally become fluent in English extremely fast and are soon able to join mainstream classes.

## Curriculum Support

There are Curriculum Support classes in both schools for students who are struggling in a particular subject or have missed work having joined the school midway through a school year, and for EFL students.

At the Junior School, students in this programme study English and/or Mathematics in the Curriculum Support unit and all other subjects with their classes, where they receive modified work. At the Senior School, classes are arranged in students' free periods with a team of specialist subject teachers on hand to help students in any area they are struggling with.

## University Guidance

University entrance becomes more competitive and more complicated each year, with more choices available to students but more variability in the quality of the courses offered. Mrs. Moir has thirty years' experience sending pupils to the best universities worldwide so students can rely on her advice to help them select the right course and university. The school's recommendations are valued so much by top universities that several have asked us to nominate students for scholarships on an annual basis.



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There is a full-time Universities Co-ordinator who is always available to ensure that students receive the latest information and are guided them through every step of the application process. A good application is as important as good grades in gaining admission to top universities and expert advice makes all the difference. Past students have attended universities in the USA, Britain, Canada, Singapore, Australia, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Japan, India and Korea so the school knows how the admissions procedure works in each country and what the top universities are. We also ensure that students required to attend an interview are exceptionally well-prepared, staging mock-interviews and providing detailed feedback.

Our students go to the traditional bastions of academic excellence – such as Oxford, Cambridge and Imperial in the UK, and Harvard and other Ivy League colleges in the USA – but increasing numbers are also choosing to go to the emerging intellectual powerhouses of the future, such as Hong Kong University and the National University of Singapore. At the time of writing, even though Harvard only normally admits one Sri Lankan student per year, we had past students in three out of the four classes there.



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## Extra Curricular

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### Assembly

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Assembly is an integral part of school life, an ideal occasion for the entire school to learn, laugh and be together. It is the arena for most students to take their first steps on stage. Every child in the Junior School, from Reception upwards, takes part in Assembly once a term so all rapidly feel at home performing in front of a crowd. Many people are astounded by the confidence our students show on stage from such a young age – but, by then, many are already stage veterans. The students are also a wonderfully supportive audience, ever willing to applaud any child brave enough to have a go and give their all.

### Life Studies

Every week at the Senior School, a guest speaker comes to speak as part of our Life Studies programme. We greatly value our relationships with the wider community in Colombo and our students have had the opportunity to listen to ambassadors, the heads of UN agencies and NGOs, leading business people, Sri Lankan MPs, authors, sporting stars and many others. Whether they want to be heart surgeons or fashion designers, they have also been able to listen to, and later meet, a leading figure in their field and find out how to make their dream job a reality.



Robert Blake, US Ambassador



Dr. Ariyaratne, Founder of Sarvodaya

### Theme Days

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The Junior School knows how to mark an occasion in style. Events such as **UN Day** and **WhizzBangTechniTastic** really do epitomise the unique atmosphere and sense of fun at the school. On UN Day, the school is full of sarongs, saris, kimonos, kilts, shalwar kameez and lederhosen as students dress in their national costumes. The students learn the importance of global harmony and are spoilt for choice when sampling food from all over the world!

Festivals from each of the major religions are celebrated every year through Assemblies and other events so that the children learn about the traditions and beliefs of all their friends in school. A particular highlight are the biennial **Avurudu** festivities that include traditional New Year food, costumes and games such as *kotta pora* (pillow fights) and *bunnis kema* (eating buns with no hands).

The Senior School has annual subject days that give parents the opportunity to find out what their children have been studying and see some of the best work they have done over the year. You might learn that the reason a celebrity is beautiful is that their face corresponds perfectly to the Golden Ratio, have a chance to save the world from nuclear war in a recreation of the Cuban Missile Crisis or try to solve a murder using genetic fingerprinting.





## Creative & Performing Arts

We believe that every student has the ability to shine in at least one area of school life with the right support. It is central to our ethos, therefore, to provide opportunities for all students to take part in plays, concerts and other events: being a small school makes it possible for us to ensure that everyone really does get a chance. We also know that the confidence gained in one discipline will soon rub off on others and enable students to approach everything they do with greater enthusiasm and conviction.

Elizabeth Moir School has a distinguished record of producing outstanding shows. Performing to packed crowds in Colombo's top theatres is an experience none of our students forget. We are particularly proud that so many of our productions are organised entirely by students. They always more than repay the faith shown in them, proving that there is really no limit to what they can achieve when given the opportunity and support.

### Drama

The stage experience gained by our students in Assemblies and Drama lessons from a young age means that many are already confident and gifted actors and actresses by the time they act in their first play. The students always work exceptionally hard to produce slick and entertaining performances and the Junior School has staged some truly memorable productions over the years, such as *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and *The Snow Queen*.

At the Senior School, students have the opportunity to stretch themselves as actors through challenging roles in serious drama. The school has put on numerous ground-breaking productions that have both entertained audiences and made them think about important issues, whether the play has been Greek tragedy (*Antigone*) or a modern classic like *The Crucible*. After this, it is little surprise that many of our students have continued to shine on stage both at university and after.

### Music and Dance

The school has three main Choirs (Infant, Junior and Senior) and a Chamber Choir, and all participate in public performances at events such as Assembly and Founders' Day. There are also thriving Dance Clubs in both schools where students learn both traditional Kandyan, Latin and Ballroom dances and cutting-edge Contemporary and Hip-Hop routines, many choreographed by the students themselves.

The Senior School's annual concert is undoubtedly one of the most anticipated events of the year. Often over half the school is involved in some way, including as many as seventy appearing on stage. The professionalism of the productions and the pioneering combination of different dance genres and live music with choral and solo singing have made the shows famous in Colombo. 'Flux', for example, highlighted the international nature of the school though music from around the world including dances from the Maldives, Korea and India. 'Revolve' took the audience from the Jazz Age to the 21<sup>st</sup> century, beginning with the Charleston in the Roaring Twenties and ending with futuristic dances that amazed those watching with special effects and technological wizardry.

## Johanna Renker



"When I first started at Elizabeth Moir School in Junior 1, I was very happy to be coming here because my three older sisters said it was the best school ever and now I agree. On my first day I was a little bit nervous since I had been home schooled before but everyone was very understanding and helpful. One of the things I like about Moir is that I know everyone in the school and they all are my friends. I have always loved Drama and taking part in three school plays has been a wonderful experience for me.

I like the way the students come from all around the world so we learn all about the different cultures and customs. The school has become like a family to me. I will be sad to be leaving after Junior 5."

*Johanna has 4 other siblings who have attended Elizabeth Moir School. Her oldest sister has now gone on to Oxford University.*

## Sandesh Mendis



Leaving my old school in Colombo was one of the hardest things I have been asked to do. I left it believing that I would not fit into any other school. From the first day I joined Moir, however, I have been accepted, included and embraced into the school's community, which made my educational transition from a different school very easy.

When I joined, I was unsure about how the school would react to and facilitate my extra-curricular activities, primarily my tennis. I found, though, that my peers, the staff and virtually everybody around me supported me playing tennis, congratulated me when I won and encouraged me when I lost.

I am glad I decided to move schools. I believe I have fitted in well, made lifelong friends and will thoroughly benefit both academically and in tennis.

*Sandesh is ranked 5th in Sri Lanka for Tennis, in the Under 16 Category, and 1st in Doubles.*

### Art

Students have Art lessons as part of the curriculum throughout the Junior School and in Forms 1-3 at the Senior School. Many students also choose to take the subject at IGCSE where they have to learn about the work of great artists of the past and to develop their own style in order to submit a portfolio and prepare for a final examination. Art is also a very popular club activity in both schools, with students learning a variety of artistic skills and using a wide range of materials.

The culmination of the students' artistic endeavours over the year is the annual Art Exhibition at the Lionel Wendt Art Gallery, which is always opened by a famous figure from the world of Art and Design. Every child from the Junior School – and all Senior School students who do Art – has work displayed and the results are never short of spectacular. The variety, colour, originality and vision on show always astound our guests.

### Model United Nations

We send delegations to both the Colombo Model United Nations and Sri Lanka Model United Nations each year, events which are attended by hundreds of students both from Sri Lanka and neighbouring countries. Our students are often selected to be part of the organising committees for the conferences and chair some of the different committees.

### Other Activities

The Senior School also has a thriving Press Club where students produce both the fortnightly school newspaper, Vent, and the annual school magazine. The Junior School also has a wide range of other clubs for students to enjoy including Computer Club, Cookery, Design and Technology, Media and Needlework.

### Sport

The idea that education should be enjoyable is central to our school ethos. Thus, sport plays an important role in our curriculum. It teaches our pupils how to win with modesty and lose with dignity; how to lead others by example, or how to be led with respect; how to learn from mistakes; how to be part of a team. To add to this, there are the obvious health benefits of being an active person and having an outlet to cope with the pressures of work both at school and in later life.

We believe that every student should learn the basics of physical movement and games. This is developed within school-time Physical Education and Swimming lessons. More is learnt at after-school sports' clubs and there are dedicated squads for all of our major sports - football, basketball, cricket, swimming and athletics - at the Senior School. At the Junior School there are squads for swimming, athletics and basketball and clubs for mini tennis, football and cricket.

We sometimes compete against schools with ten times the number of students we have. Often we reach semi-finals in the official Inter International Schools tournaments and win smaller events. This is character building; we need to train harder and be smarter than bigger schools; we need greater planning and more teamwork; we need the most committed coaches and supporters. All of this builds enormous school spirit.

Should you be an especially talented and hard-working sportsperson who can meet our academic requirements, there is a possibility you could win a scholarship to study at the school. We would expect you to devote your talents to helping to teach others the greatest values of sport.



## Mr. Patrick Van Twest



“It is hard to stay away from Sri Lanka and my favourite school. I first taught here from 2003 to 2005 and came back in 2007, and have been here since. I particularly enjoy the friendly atmosphere which encourages us to be ourselves whilst also challenging us to be more; indeed, to be better.

I particularly like the fact that the school is small enough to allow students to receive more individual attention. It also provides them with opportunities to be involved in so many different activities throughout the school.”

*Mr. Van Twest teaches Physics and is Coach of the Boys’ Football team.*

## Community

Our school is noted for its family atmosphere and warm, welcoming, supportive environment. It is an inclusive community where a child in Form 1 can approach a 6<sup>th</sup> Form student without feeling intimidated; where differences are appreciated, not made fun of; and where relations between students and teachers are marked by mutual respect and cooperation, not confrontation and conflict. It is this that gives our students the confidence to try new things, to take risks and to give their all. Newcomers, whether students or teachers, always find this highly refreshing and settle in very quickly.

We believe that the values ingrained in students at a young age will stay with them, and want to send out students who we know we will be proud of throughout their lives. We aim to instil in all our students the confidence to stand up for what they believe in, to fight for those who cannot fight for themselves and to consider the needs of others above their own.

Elizabeth Moir School nurtures individuals and gives all students the confidence to be themselves, free from peer pressure and the need to conform. By treating students like adults who are capable of making their own decisions not just being told what to do, we encourage them to act like adults and to take responsibility for the consequences of their actions. Our students work because they want to, not because they have to, and they adhere to rules because they understand their importance, not out of fear of punishment.

## Pastoral Care

This special atmosphere in the school is a product of the care and consideration of the teachers and our commitment to providing the best possible Pastoral Care. We are committed to ensuring that every student enjoys and makes the most of their time in school; this is central to our ethos.

Class Teachers are responsible for the welfare of all the students in their class and have a very special bond with their students. They are always available to help students with any issue – whether academic, personal or social – and every child knows they have someone they can go to with a problem. They also take the lead in teaching students the values of self-discipline, fair play and respect for others on which the school is built.

In the Junior School, the *What Shall I Do?* scheme addresses a number of personal, social, moral and health issues and helps children to understand the difference between right and wrong. At the Senior School, there is a full programme of Personal and Social Education in which a wide range of issues that might affect students are discussed by different teachers. Annual age-appropriate Sex Education sessions led by a doctor begin in Junior 5 and continue throughout the Senior School.

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## Discipline

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At Elizabeth Moir School, we recognise that good discipline is central to what parents want from a school and is the key factor in students achieving their potential in all areas of school life. We have a well-earned reputation for well-mannered students and a community free from the behavioural problems that can make school so hard for both children and teachers at other schools. This discipline, however, comes not from unthinking obedience or frequent punishments but shared adherence to a common moral code and a community based on mutual respect.





Some of Mrs. Moir's past students who have since joined the teaching staff, having attended universities including Oxford, Cambridge, Harvard and Princeton.



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## Staff

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The latest research conducted in Britain has shown that nothing matters more in a child's education than having a teacher who truly inspires them. Our students already knew this. Any of our students and parents would say that the greatest asset the school has is the commitment and dedication of the teachers. They are all determined to do everything they can for every student in their care, always going the extra mile to form a bond with each child and give them all the help they need. They all make themselves available to students outside of class time – during Breaks, after school and even during the holidays – to provide the individual attention that is such a key part of the school.

A wonderful sense of teamwork exists in both schools with teachers working together to help get the best out of students and to share ideas about how to teach a particular lesson or get the best out of a certain pupil. This stimulates all the staff to strive for the very highest standards in all areas of school life.

Continuity is a key reason for this success. Unlike many international schools where teachers stay for two or three years before moving on, we are fortunate that the majority of both our local and expatriate staff have been at the school for a long time. This promotes consistent leadership, facilitates long-term planning and means that both teachers and senior members of staff know every student and what they are capable of.

Our in-house training seminars succeed in keeping teachers abreast of the latest developments in the field of education. These regular workshops, which include an Induction Week at the start of each academic year, provide an ideal opportunity for teachers to learn from one another, and help to strengthen the team dynamic.

### Junior School Staff

Our Junior School staff comprises a mixture of local and expatriate teachers, all of whom are experienced and qualified in their fields and passionate about educating young minds. All members of the Staff Room work towards common goals with energy and enthusiasm, creating a climate of purpose, joy and togetherness that rubs off on their students.

This dedicated team strives to promote independence and a thirst for knowledge within every child, encouraging all students to develop good study habits from a young age.

### Senior School Staff

All full-time teachers at the Senior School have university degrees in their specialised field. With teachers who have either trained or taught on almost every continent, there is a wealth of expertise within the Staff Room. Their varied backgrounds mean that different teachers have experience of different teaching methods and the latest developments within different education systems. This leads to a tremendous fusion of the best practice from different countries and makes the school a wonderfully exciting place to teach and learn.

## Mrs. Shahareen Ghouse



“It was the perfect environment to join after I moved back to Sri Lanka to settle down. Having worked under Mrs. Moir for nine years previously, I looked forward to an intimate community of students, parents and teachers. Here at Elizabeth Moir School we focus on each student's individual needs and giving them the opportunity to shine.

The team spirit in every single club, class, sports or performing arts event and even staff meeting is truly remarkable and it allows every child to make many friends easily and participate in activities they enjoy. It is for these reasons that I decided to enrol both my children at Elizabeth Moir School too.”

*Mrs. Ghouse started working at the Junior School in 1999 and is currently the Junior 1 Class Teacher.*



## Students

The student body is normally around 350 students (approximately 160 at the Junior School and 190 at the Senior School) and is limited to this level to preserve the school's family atmosphere. Overall, the number of boys and girls is approximately even, while the ratio of students to staff is roughly 5:1.

## Houses

When a student enters the school, he or she is placed in one of four houses: Armstrong, Columbus, Fleming or Hillary. Throughout the academic year, these houses compete in a number of competitions, in and outside the classroom, across different age categories. The house system generates a terrific spirit within the community: House competitions always create considerable excitement and a wonderful sense of teamwork and camaraderie. Events like Inter House Art, Music and Drama at the Senior School not only unearth hidden talent in the school but also give students their first experience organising events for themselves.

## Diversity

Elizabeth Moir School has welcomed students from more than 60 different countries and every continent since the school opened. Few people are lucky enough to visit as many as countries in a lifetime as are represented in our school at any given time. Growing up in this multicultural environment means that acceptance of religious and cultural differences comes naturally to our students.

## Community Service

At Elizabeth Moir School we instil a sense of social responsibility and an appreciation of privilege in the students. Every year, for example, the Junior School students collect Christmas gifts for those less fortunate than themselves, which are presented to a local orphanage by the Junior School Prefects. The school has also worked closely with Action and Care Trust, a group supporting relief efforts in the North and East following the end of the war there.

At the Senior School, each class is responsible for organising a project every year. Projects have included visiting a home for the mentally and physically handicapped, painting orphanages, organising supplies for relief efforts for IDPs and flood victims, and helping to build new homes through the Habitat for Humanity organisation. Every student is involved in this programme and, in the process, all the students learn a lot about not just about the people they have helped but about themselves too. We also make the most of our own facilities to give children and others a day out that they will never forget. On a recent Community Service Day, our students organised a Paralympics for the residents of a home for the mentally and physically handicapped. The theme for the day was 'Spreading Smiles, Brightening Lives' and the smiles of our guests will certainly stay with us all for a long time.

## Yingnan Qi



"The school's unique 'family atmosphere' was apparent even on the first day I joined. It was then that I realised I was not settling into my school, but my home.

My parents will tell you how I cannot stop talking about my day at school: how the educational system is interesting, how I have any queries clarified during and after class, and how I feel I do not require outside tuition. All my teachers are very qualified, are extremely patient and are willing to repeat lessons and sacrifice their time for any of their students.

We are all encouraged to enrol in a variety of extra-curricular activities that are offered. I joined the Basketball squad a few days after I joined school, went to Art Club sessions and played a solo on my Saxophone in the Inter House Music competition. I am one of the many children who have benefitted a lot from Elizabeth Moir School and I cannot express how glad I am to have joined."

*This is the first time Yingnan has left Kunming in Yunnan Province in China, where he is from.*

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# Admissions

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## Entrance Tests

All students from KG1 upwards are expected to sit entrance tests in English and Mathematics. Students entering Reception and Playgroup have an interview with the Class Teachers instead. Admission is based on a student's performance on these tests, their reports from their previous school and their interviews with the Head of School. Although Elizabeth Moir School is academically selective, we aim to assess applicants based on their future potential rather than just their current attainment and we also take other factors into consideration, such as character, attitude and extra-curricular achievements.

## Special Needs

We have limited resources to provide for students with Special Educational Needs, and these are normally devoted to students whose Special Needs are identified while they are in the school after joining at a young age. We are not normally able to admit students with Special Needs, therefore, and we will not take a student if we feel we cannot provide for their individual needs.

## Scholarships

Each year, the school offers full scholarships to both internal and external students for the IGCSE and A Level courses. The scholarships are highly prestigious: candidates are expected to have an exceptional academic record, and to have shown themselves to be leaders in the classroom in terms of effort and participation as well as achievement. We are looking for students who not only possess natural flair for their subjects but also display genuine interest in learning.

The scholarship papers are designed to challenge students of the highest calibre. They aim to assess students' future potential by testing their ability to think independently and creatively in response to new ideas.

## Frequently Asked Questions

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### Is the school run by British nationals?

Yes, Elizabeth Moir School is the only international school in Sri Lanka to be owned and run by British nationals.

### How will my child cope with the entrance tests if they have been in a different education system?

We take students' educational background into consideration when we mark entrance tests and assess students based on what they do know not what they do not. As an international school, we are used to helping students adjust to our style of teaching and assessment if they have come from a different system.

### Can my child join in the middle of an academic year?

Although it is always better for students to join at the start of the academic year in August, we recognise that this is not always possible. Teachers are used to students joining during a school year and will give them whatever help they need to catch up, even modifying end-of-term exams if required.

### What are the class sizes?

Class sizes have strict limits to ensure that each child receives the individual attention they need. At the Junior School, Reception has a maximum of 12 students and no class is allowed to go above 22 students. All classes up to and including Junior 1 have 2 teachers. At the Senior School, classes are split in many subjects and the limit for any class is 24 students.



**My two and a half year old child is starting school. How will he or she settle?**

There are induction sessions for both the students and parents of Reception Class in the week before the academic year starts. A third teacher is also employed for the first month to help children settle quickly and easily.

**Is there a support system for students who do not speak English as their first language?**

Yes, we have excellent EFL programmes in both sections of the school. There are separate entrance tests for students entering our EFL programme.



**When does the school year start and how many terms are there?**

The academic year starts in the last week of August. There are 3 terms in the academic year.

**How safe is the school for my child?**

The safety of the children entrusted to us is our first priority. Both the Junior and Senior Schools have gates which are permanently supervised by security guards and well-practised emergency drills. There are regular First Aid courses for staff from both schools run by St. John's Ambulance and the School Doctor is always on call and in close proximity to both schools.



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# 6 Good Reasons To Choose Elizabeth Moir School

## Individual Attention

A student / teacher ratio of 5:1 that helps each student fulfil their potential

## Sense of Community

A warm, supportive environment, where students of different nationalities encourage each other in all areas of school life

## Inspirational Teaching

A proud record of obtaining outstanding results in public examinations

## Nurturing Talent

A school that provides all students with the opportunities to develop their interests and skills in a wide range of extra-curricular activities

## Good Discipline

A school that encourages good manners, respect and self-discipline

## Experienced Management

A committed team of highly qualified teachers led by professionals with 30 years of experience running international schools in Colombo







## Shazana Shahjahan

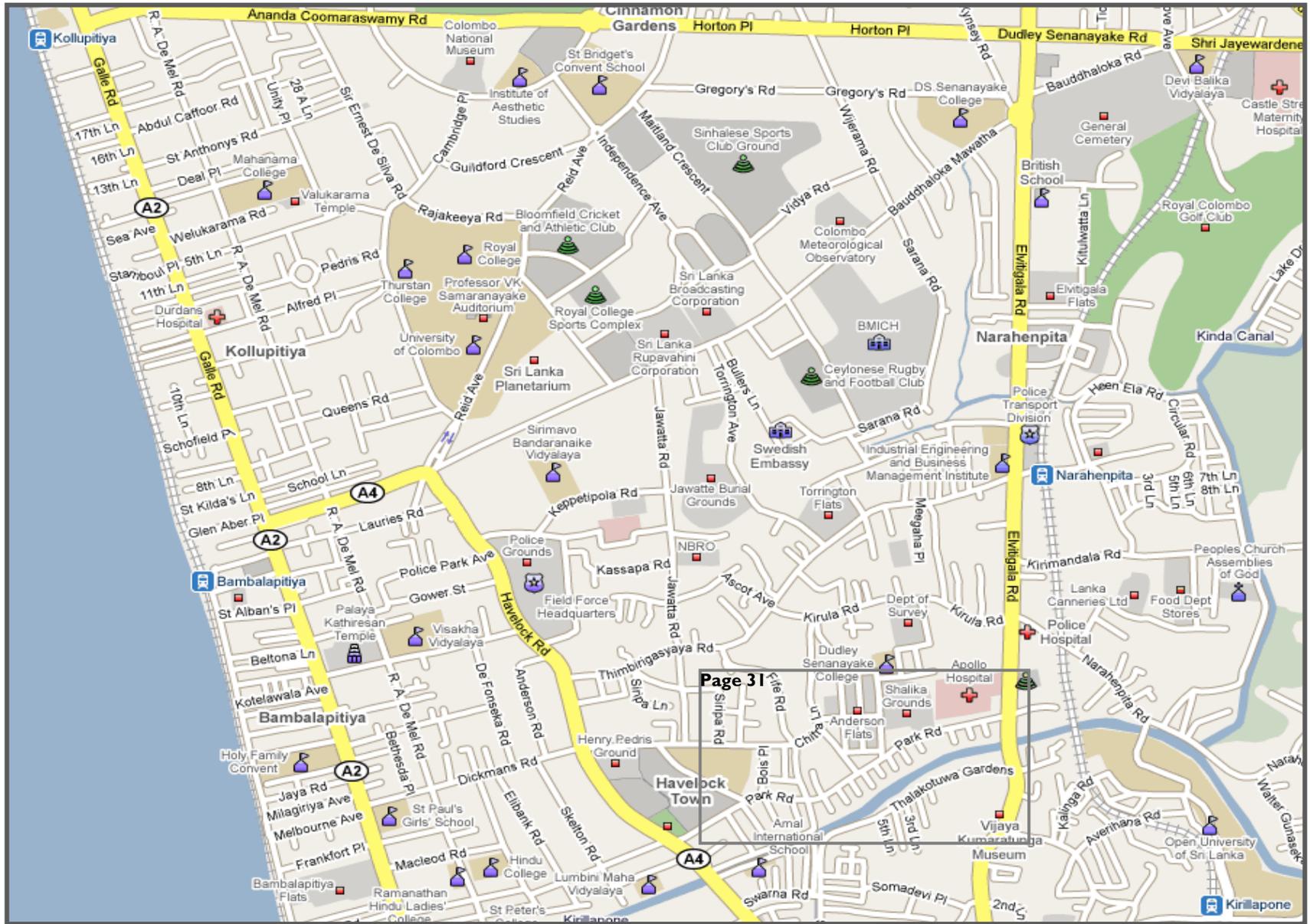


“Although many years have passed since I’ve left school, whenever I am back in Sri Lanka, I always make it a priority to visit the Senior School. This is not only because of the great memories I have of the school, but also because of the incredible support that I’ve always received from the staff. Throughout my schooling career, the support I’ve found from my teachers has never failed to surprise me. Whether it was relating to work, extra-curricular activities or my concerns about my future university or career choices, I’ve always found an attentive ear and great advice.

I really enjoyed my time at school, especially its focus on encouraging us to pursue other interests outside of academics, be it participating in concerts, dramas, debates or sports. This is something that I’ve taken away and tried to implement at university as well – which helped me to make sure that I made the most out of time at school, university and beyond.”

*Shazana joined the school in Junior 3 and was a Junior School Prefect. She won Edexcel Awards for gaining 9 A grades at O Level and 4 A grades at A Level and was Captain of School in her final year. She went on to Cambridge, where she won a Scholarship after her first year and graduated with a First. After Cambridge, she went to work for Goldman Sachs in New York.*

# How to find us



## Enlarged area from page 30



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