

ELIZABETH MOIR



RECORD IGCSE & A LEVEL RESULTS

Congratulations to all our exam students on their superb results in last summer's public examinations.

At A Level, almost half of all papers were graded A* or A, and 72% A* – B. Out of 29 students, an astonishing 20 students gained an A grade in at least one of their subjects. Of these, 9 students gained 3 or more A grades, including two with an outstanding 4 A* grades:

Zacky Muzni	4 A*
Nimesha Perera	4 A*
Gimhani Weerakkody	2 A* 2 A
Nushkia Chamba	2 A* 1 A
Nafeesa Hamza	1 A* 3A
Adharshan Ganeshalingam	1 A* 2A
Imran Sobir	3 A
Sahan Tampoe	3 A
Tarini Wijesekera	3 A



Khyla Muzni	10 A*
Amber Nomani	9 A* 4 A
Vinu Samarasekera	9 A* 1 A
Zainab Adamaly	9 A*
Hana Rajap	7 A* 3 A
Ifaz Fahim	6 A* 2 A
Sandesh Mendis	5 A* 4 A
Isha Ibrahim	5 A* 3 A
Francesca Mudannayake	4 A* 3 A
Dasith Peiris	3 A* 4 A
Amar Riyaz	1 A* 6 A

Both Khyla and Zainab achieved an average of over 90%. Gwang Hoon Lee scored 99% in Maths, Kathleen Renker 98% in Art and Khyla 98% in History.



Across their four subjects, Nimesha averaged 97%, including 99% in Physics, and Zacky averaged 96%.

At IGCSE, almost 75% of papers were graded A* or A, and well over 90% A* – B, which are outstanding results which compare with the very top schools worldwide. Eleven students gained 7 or more A or A* grades, with five obtaining at least 7 A* grades:



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SRI LANKA MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE 2012

During the holidays, 33 students along with Miss Simali Fernando attended the 5th annual Sri Lanka Model United Nations Conference, held at Water's Edge from 5th to 7th August. SLMUN is the largest school Model United Nations in South Asia and the 3rd largest in the world, with over 1200 delegates from schools across Sri Lanka, as well from India, Bangladesh and the Maldives. Our students have played a big part in the success of SLMUN with the school again providing more members, with ten, of the Executive Committee that organises the conference than any other school. Reema Mohamed, in particular, took charge of a lot of the overall planning in her key role of Under Secretary General for Public Relations and General Affairs. Junaid Jafar, Shevangi Sadesh Kumar and Sahan Tampoe were all Chairs of different committees and Avishka Mendis was again Assistant to the Secretariat.

This year's theme was Conflict and Post Conflict Management. Congratulations to Maduni Wickramasinghe who won the award for the Best Position Paper in her committee and to Hishma Hafeez and Sonali Silva who won High Commendation Awards for their outstanding contributions to their committees. Hishma was the sole representative of Saudia Arabia in the Arab League (while other countries had two delegates) and was singled out for praise for her role in some very heated discussions about the ongoing crisis in Syria. Well done as well to Avishka Mendis, who was selected as a member of the Sri Lankan delegation to the Indian Model United Nations in New Delhi.



SRI LANKA UNITES FUTURE LEADERS CONFERENCE 2012



Six of our 6th Form students joined over 350 students from all around the country in Jaffna from 28th August to 1st September for the 4th Sri Lanka Unites Future Leaders Conference. On arrival, they were divided up into different teams so students from the same school were separated and mixed with students from other provinces. These teams then took part in sporting and cultural activities designed to promote team-building and help students bridge the ethnic and linguistic divide. Our students had a chance to meet students who had been severely affected by the fighting at the end of the war, including some who had been part of the 'Human Shield' used by the LTTE.

Speakers included former UN Under Secretary-General Jayantha Dhanapala and the CEO of Brandix, Ashroff Omar. There were also workshops for students interested in Medicine, Business, Law and other careers led by specialists in the field, many from overseas. Congratulations to Shamira Ghouse who won 3rd place in the English Oratory competition at the conference and Amar Riyaz who helped his team win the Best Performance award. The students also enjoyed watching and playing Basketball with the American Sri Lankan rapper Ras Ceylon.

The students stayed in Jaffna College, one of the oldest schools in the country founded in 1817, and had the chance to look around Jaffna and the surrounding area, including the beach and lagoon.

INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

Last year, we introduced a new internship programme, aimed at both current and past students during their university holidays. As well as helping our current students gain the work experience they need to help their application stand out when they apply to university, the programme is also designed to help students make contacts with companies they may be interested in working for after they graduate. Internship opportunities were arranged with a wide range of companies covering almost all fields that our students are interested in pursuing.

Among those who took advantage of these opportunities over the summer were Hishma Hafeez and Yohann Sequeira who worked for four weeks at Stax Inc., a global strategy consulting firm based in Boston that has an office in Colombo. Hishma and Yohann were given a real project to work on and their research led their client to make a major investment in Sri Lanka.

Several of our students who want to be doctors had placements in hospitals or shadowing doctors. Among these were Shamira Ghouse and Manoj Thogesan who spent two weeks shadowing Dr. Nalaka Gunawansa, a Consultant Vascular and Transplant surgeon who was one of the team that conducted the first ever successful liver transplant in Sri Lanka. They observed numerous surger-

ies at several hospitals including a vascular bypass for the leg, neck dissection and Arterio-venous fistula, and were even able to scrub in and assist in one operation. Manoj then worked for one week at a Help Age eye hospital in Wellawatte and for a further week at an Ayurvedic clinic in Vavuniya. Sonali Silva also interned in the Children's Ward of the Maharagama Cancer Hospital, where she learnt more about techniques like radiology and chemotherapy and also spent time in the wards playing with the children. Sonali says 'it was one of the best experiences of my life and it made me more appreciative of what I have'. Meanwhile Nafila Ali Firag went back to her old school in the Maldives to teach a Form 3 History class for four weeks. She says 'It helped me to be sure that I want to major in History at university, and go on to become a History teacher in the future.' Also in Malé, Lubana Shah worked in the Forensic Directorate, taking fingerprints and DNA samples at crime scenes and analysing them in the laboratory, even helping to catch a murderer.

Ajay Gnanam has been asked to write regular articles for the Irish Cricket website, after they were impressed by an article he wrote on Irish cricket for the website www.espnccricinfo.com.

SUMMER COURSES

With admission to top universities becoming ever more competitive, it is essential that students make good use of their long Summer holiday by doing work experience or attending a course that will help convince admission tutors how committed they are to their prospective course of study. This summer Shevangi Sadesh Kumar and Dilroshini Karunaratne attended two-week programmes run by Oxford Summer Courses at St. Peter's College, Oxford in Biology and Medicine, respectively. The course included seminars and workshops run by Oxford tutors and D. Phil students at the University Science buildings. The students also had to write two essays which were marked by their lecturers and then discussed with them in one-on-one tutorials. As well as this, they had the opportunity to live in an Oxford college, explore the city and university, meet other students from all around the world and gain a valuable insight into what an Oxford education would be like. There were also organised trips to Windsor Castle, a Shakespeare play, a night of the Proms at the Royal Albert Hall and the main London museums. Shevangi says 'I really enjoyed the Summer course at Oxford because it was not only fun but very educational and also helped me choose which college I would like to apply to.'

Maduni Wickramasinghe used her holiday to go to Harvard as part of the Sri Lankan delegation to the Future World Leaders summit there. The camp involved an extensive programme of activities, from lectures on leadership to outdoor team-building activities and was attended by 300 students from all over the world. Maduni says 'Overall it was an amazing week which helped me to identify and enhance my leadership skills. The experience of campus life has given me the confidence I needed to travel unaccompanied, live alone and study abroad.'

