

MARCH 2013

ELIZABETH MOIR



MOIR SUCCESS RECOGNISED BY THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

Elizabeth Moir School has the 3rd best exam results in the world according to a survey of top international schools taking British exams. This outstanding achievement was reported by leading British newspaper The Daily Telegraph in an article on international schools that included the following comment by Mrs. Moir: 'We are delighted that the extraordinary achievements of our students have been recognised but it is also testimony to the extremely high standard of education throughout Sri Lanka.'

73% of all IGCSE papers sat at Elizabeth Moir School in 2012 were graded A* or A, an incredible statistic that ranks it above some of the best known schools in the world such as the International School Bangalore, the Garden International School in Kuala Lumpur and the British Schools in Paris, Brussels, Beijing, Tokyo and elsewhere. In 2011, our results had actually been even better, with 76% A / A* grades.

The survey is based on the breakdown of results published by the leading international schools around the world on their websites. The ranking is based on the percentages of students gaining A* or A at GCSE or IGCSE, as this is the most widely used British exam in international schools around the world. Not all schools go on to do the A Level exam so any comparison of A Level results is based on a much smaller range of schools, although Elizabeth Moir School also comes near the top in this table as well.

In recent years, Elizabeth Moir School's results have also ranked it above many top British public schools including Rugby, Wellington, Repton, Benenden and Charterhouse. This is especially impressive as these schools select students based on competitive exams at age 11 or 13 and only cater, therefore, for the most able students. Educational experts emphasise that 'value-added' is a much better indicator of schools' achievement than performance alone, so schools like Elizabeth Moir School that admit students from age 3 and cater for students from a wider range of ability are regarded much more highly.

It is also notable that the school fees at Elizabeth Moir School are considerably lower than any of the other leading international schools, with many charging in excess of \$30,000 (Rs3.8 million) per year. This puts an international quality education within reach of more Sri Lankan parents.

Mrs. Moir commented, 'There are many schools where bright students are able to gain top grades, and we are of course very proud that so many of our students are among the top achievers in both Sri Lanka and the world each year. What matters even more to us, however, is ensuring that every single student who attends this school fulfils their potential and gains good grades, and this is what these results show. They are testament to the amazing commitment of our teachers and to an environment where hard work and academic excellence are encouraged and celebrated by students as well as teachers'.

GCSE / IGCSE RESULTS 2012

	A*-A	A*-C
Dhirubhai Ambani International School, Mumbai	88	n/a
Dubai College	86	100
Elizabeth Moir School, Colombo	73	100
The English School, Nicosia	72	97
British School of Beijing	71	98
The International School Bangalore	69	98
Garden International School, Kuala Lumpur	69	96
United World College, South East Asia, Singapore	68	98
British School in Tokyo	67	92
Dulwich College, Beijing	67	n/a
International School of Cape Town	64	98
British International School, Cairo	64	97
British International School, Ho Chi Minh City	63	97
Tanglin Trust School, Singapore	62	99
St. Christopher's, Bahrain	59	95
British School of Oporto	59	94
King's College, The British School of Madrid	58	99
Campion School, Athens	58	88
The Alice Smith School, Kuala Lumpur	56	95
The British School of Brussels	55	92
St. George's International School, Rome	54	92
Bangkok Pattana School	54	89
British International School, Riyadh	52	91
St. Julian's School, Lisbon	51	95
British International School of Jeddah	51	90
British School, Abu Dhabi	50	96
The English International School, Prague	50	n/a
British School in Paris	49	91
The British School, Warsaw	49	87
The British School in the Netherlands	47	93
Harrow International School, Bangkok	49	90
Dulwich College, Suzhou	45	86
St. George's International School, Luxembourg	44	92
Hillcrest, Nairobi	44	89
The Prague British School	43	
British International School, Lagos	41	91
British International School, Jakarta	41	90
English College of Prague	39	91
Berlin British School	35	87
Dubai British School	34	95

ELIZABETH MOIR

ENCOURAGING INDEPENDENT THINKING

Elizabeth Moir School has a progressive international curriculum that blends new and innovative ways of learning with a traditional focus on basic skills such as grammar and arithmetic. With students from China, India, Korea and elsewhere setting ever higher standards and entrance to top universities becoming more and more competitive, our unique approach ensures we stay at the forefront of modern educational practice. We appreciate that our students need to go beyond the expectations of the IGCSE and A Level courses, to develop their own interests outside the syllabus and to learn to work independently.

This term we have piloted new end-of-term assessments instead of examinations with Form 3. The aim has been to challenge students to think for themselves by working on an extended piece of work and drawing conclusions from their own research,

experiments and fieldwork. This has involved them investigating subjects as diverse as the mechanics of helicopters and the solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

We have also introduced a new Essay Prize in the Senior School, based on a competitive examination. Over 40 top students entered the competition in February and had to write essays on questions such as:

- 'The 20th century was the century of physics; the 21st century will be the century of biology.' Discuss.
- How far do you agree that the prospect of a 3rd World War is now unthinkable?
- Is it immoral to buy a \$10,000 handbag?



1001 ARABIAN NIGHTS

This year's Junior School play was an all-singing, all-dancing extravaganza with an international cast of characters, spectacular costumes, plenty of audience participation and, as always, lots of great jokes. Based on characters from the 1001 Arabian Nights, it was given a Sri Lankan (and Scottish) twist, from Celtic fans celebrating a victory over Barcelona (it was a fairy tale after all...) to the evil vizier's plans to take over the world, starting with Mount

Lavinia. The experienced duo of Anuk Dissanayake and Noah Le Berre brought their innate gift for comedy to the central roles of the brothers Ali Barber and Singbad (sic), and Kaayvya Gnanam played the dual role of Bob / Princess Bobastasia with characteristic aplomb. Paloma McDeigan-Lee was scarily convincing as the overbearing matriarch Dame Barber while Ishra Ibrahim was a fantastic baddie and hilarious dancer.

NUHA BEST SPEAKER AT SRI LANKA SCHOOLS DEBATING COMPETITION

Well done to Nuha Bazeer who was awarded the coveted Best Speaker trophy at the 8th annual Sri Lanka Schools Debating Competition organised by the University of Colombo Law Faculty. The competition is the most prestigious debating event for schools in Sri Lanka, with over 60 teams from all the top local and international schools taking part. It is a tremendous achievement for Nuha to be

chosen as the Best Speaker out of over 100 experienced debaters. Congratulations as well to Nuha, Ajay Gnanam and Ashhari Jayawardene who overcame very tough competition to reach the partial Octo-final as one of the top eight teams, despite it being their first time competing according to the British Parliamentary Style rules.



INTER HOUSE ART & MUSIC



Inter House Art and Music were held together for the first time this year, in the beautiful setting of the Barefoot Garden Café and Gallery. The evening began with the judging of the Art and refreshments were then served before the singing and dancing began. The evening closed with a fashion show featuring batik dresses made by the students and modelled by the designers themselves.

As ever, all the houses produced a wide range of stimulating paintings, pottery and photography based on their chosen themes, which ranged from Freedom to War and Peace. The judge, well-known Puerto Rican artist Rashid Abdur-Rahman, was amazed by the quality of the work displayed. Congratulations to Zainab Adamaly who won the senior individual prize for her work including a beautiful stained glass window and Praveena Wikramayake who won the middle school award.

From the start of the first performance – Hillary's Group Song, with their choir accompanied by four guitarists – it was clear that the audience were in for a real treat. Dilroshini Karunaratne emerged as a deserved winner of the Solo Singing, with the lyrics of 'Run' by Snow Patrol ('I'll sing it one last time for you') being peculiarly appropriate for her valedictory school performance. The best was saved to last, however, with Lajj Shah exuding confidence and charisma in his hugely entertaining Solo Dance, which had the whole audience in fits of laughter. Soundarie David, one of the three judges, praised the incredibly high standard of all the performers and paid tribute to the school's continued commitment to the Performing Arts in the years since she left the school, as well as to the outstanding quality and originality of the school's productions.

THE CANTERVILLE GHOST



The Senior School put on a Middle School play for the first time this year, an original adaptation of Oscar Wilde's classic short story The Canterville Ghost. The extremely high standard of the acting was testimony to the talent that exists in the Middle School and the ability of young actors to rise to any challenge given to them. Johanna Renker clearly enjoyed playing the ghost and her tremendous sense of fun set the tone for the whole performance. Raiish Fathulla, Akash Gnanam and Jayhan Haputantri were brilliant as the triplets, enlivening all the scenes they were in with their energy and mischievous humour, while Tripti Mathews' sonorous voice added depth to her performance and made her a very convincing big sister. Rachel Hayward also shone as the careworn housekeeper, who seemed more at home with the ghost than her new employers.



HEAD MASTER OF ETON'S EDUCATION CONCLAVE, UDAIPUR



The Maharana of Udaipur hosted the group at one of his palaces

Mr Tenduf-La was invited to represent the school at a seminar in Udaipur, India, to discuss ways of shaping the leaders of tomorrow. The meetings, chaired by the Head Master of Eton College, included seventeen participants, mainly Heads of the best schools in India, such as Mayo College and Doon, but also, for example, a representative from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. As well as brainstorming ideas, the group discussed ways of collaborating with each other, be it through exchange programmes or shared projects. Although these ideas are in their infancy, eventually they could offer our students some invaluable opportunities to further their own profiles and skills. There were some other extremely exciting and ambitious proposals, as well as discussions of how these top schools can help each other to groom global leaders. We were the only school invited from Sri Lanka, and were honoured to be included in a group of old and prestigious institutions, with such rich histories and traditions. Outside of the official meetings, invitations were extended to our school to send groups of students, or sports teams to spend a few days at these top schools.

MOIR PLACED 1ST AND 2ND IN INTER SCHOOL DANCING COMPETITION

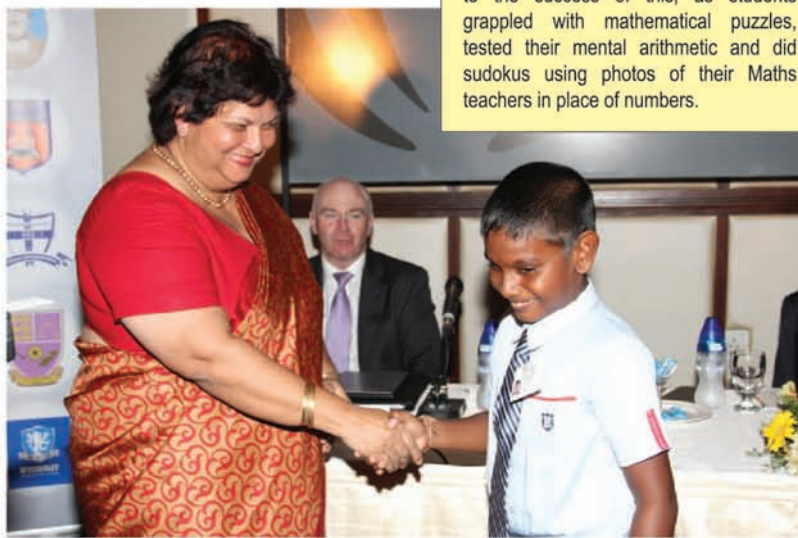
In February, our dancers entered Dance Fest 2013, organised by Alethea International School. It was the first time we had entered an inter school dancing competition so our students were keen to compare themselves to the best dancers from other schools. They immediately set a new standard in the competition and were placed 1st and 2nd in the Western category.

COLOMBO MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Seventeen of our students participated in the Colombo Model United Nations from March 1st to 3rd alongside 500 other students from 30 schools including schools from Jaffna, Cambodia and Pakistan. Hana Rajap was a member of the Executive Committee that organised the conference as Deputy Head of Administration, and three of our students won awards for their outstanding performance during the debates:

Insaf Bakeer Markar
Ashhari Jayawardena
Kushan Jayawickrama

High Commendation in UN Human Rights Council
Best Foreign Policy Statement in the Security Council
Honorary Mention in UN Human Rights Council



Kithmal Amarasinghe of Junior 3 receiving the first Student ID given by TISSL, the new association of The International Schools of Sri Lanka.

MATHS DAY

Maths Day was held at the Senior School on Saturday 2nd February. It was an opportunity for students to find out more about the beauty of Mathematics and why its applications are so important. It allowed numbers to escape from the pages of textbooks and come alive in the world around us. There were scale 3D models of modern architectural feats, presentations on topics such as the 4th dimension, demonstrations of figures like the hexaflexagon, and displays on the history of Mathematics, highlighting the conceptual brilliance of the Arabic numerals we use today, such as the significance of the number zero. The Maths Department also printed a magazine Sigma with articles on a wide range of mathematical topics by students from every class.

The day was also about showing how Mathematics can be fun and the long queues for all the games were testament to the success of this, as students grappled with mathematical puzzles, tested their mental arithmetic and did sudokus using photos of their Maths teachers in place of numbers.