



INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS' ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIP

A late change of date and venue led to clashes between this year's International Schools' Athletics Championship and both the Junior School Play and Senior School Mock Examinations, forcing a lot of athletes to drop out. Despite this, the students who were able to compete performed brilliantly, against tough competition from 3,000 other participants.

Athletics Captain Urshella Hisham deserves a lot of the credit for the success of the Senior School Athletics Squad over the last few years. She encouraged the re-establishment of the squad and her enthusiasm and commitment have encouraged other students to join and give their best. Urshella again led from the front this year, winning a Bronze Medal in 100m Hurdles and coming 4th in 200m. The break-through performer this year was Noah Le Berre, who finished 3rd in both the 100m and 200m, the most competitive

events of all. In the Under 19 200m, Manuukith finished 5th.

With most of the older Junior School students committed to the play, it was our younger students who led the way. Junior 2 started with Seong Chan Kim and Nirara Wijeyasinghe both finishing 5th in Long Jump and Seneli Jayawardane 5th in 60 m. Our Under 9 Girls' Relay team (Seneli, Limansa Thilakarathna, Upekha Gunawansa, Reveika Wijeyasinghe) brought the championship to a great conclusion by coming 5th in the relay. We are very excited to have so much great talent coming through in the younger classes. Earlier in the term, seven Junior School students took part in the Colombo National Athletic Championship, with Seneli, Niara and Limansa all reaching the qualifying time in their races.



APRIL 2016

ELIZABETH MOIR SCHOOL

6TH STUDENT AT HARVARD IN 9 YEARS

Urshella Hisham has become our 7th student, and 6th in the last 9 years, to win a place at Harvard, the world's top-ranked university. Urshella plans to study Chemistry and Astrophysics, with a Secondary in International Relations, reflecting the breadth of her interests. She says her motto is 'Always be passionate about what you do', which epitomises the attitude behind the success of so many of our students.

Like all the top universities around the world our students attend, Harvard stands out for the incredible opportunities it provides to students after graduation as well as at the university. We have, therefore, caught up with some of our former students who have attended Harvard to see how they have taken advantage of these opportunities.



Hisham Mabrook was our first student to go to Harvard, back in 2004, having scored full marks in his SAT exams. He graduated in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science but also enjoyed the opportunity to study with world-renowned philosophers, economists, historians and mathematicians. While at Harvard, he completed internships at Deutsche Investment Banking in London and Calyx Financial in New York. He currently works in corporate strategy for EMC, a Fortune 200 technology company. Hisham says, 'I still fondly recall my time at school. I made some of my best friends there, and still stay in touch with them even though they are scattered all over the world. I am very grateful to the teachers at Moir who invested a lot in us: I don't think I had better teachers even at Harvard!' Hisham's determination to enable other students to enjoy these same opportunities led him to start the Moir Alumni Scholarship Trust two years ago.

Nirasha Guruge graduated from Harvard with a degree in Economics in 2012. Nirasha had been Sri Lanka's National Squash Champion from the age of 14 and one of three Elizabeth Moir School students to represent Sri Lanka at the 15th Asian Games in Doha in 2006. At Harvard, she was named to the CSA All-American team in all her four years. As Co-Captain of the Women's Squash team in her final year, she led Harvard to the National Championship. After graduating, Nirasha moved to New York to work as an analyst at HSBC, and currently works in their Global Banking division. She says, 'I would have had less chance of getting into Harvard if not for the guidance I received from the school and I am very grateful for all the support.'

Sabrina Ghouse studied Environmental Science and Public Policy at Harvard, where she was President of the College Art Society and did volunteer work in East Africa and the Philippines, as well as internships at the United Nations and Harvard Business School. After graduating last year, she has moved to San Francisco to work for the AAA with

Google and Tesla on their new self-driving cars. She says that, at Harvard, 'it made me so proud to know that the majority of Sri Lankans at Harvard attended Elizabeth Moir School: the Admissions Office clearly trusts the calibre of students who apply from our school'.

Atul Bhattarai studied Government at Harvard, where he was an editor of the Harvard Crimson and wrote for the Harvard Political Review. Since graduating he has been pursuing journalism in New York, focusing on international affairs. He says: 'Harvard and similar places look for schools from which they can reliably take competent students year after year, and Moir is clearly one of those schools. At Moir we were lucky to have teachers who encouraged us to excel and were dedicated to helping us do that. Naturally this is something that continues into college.'

Yohann Sequeira is in his final year at Harvard, majoring in Economics. He is currently Co-Captain of the Cricket team and has recently co-founded Boost-in, a community service group working with high-schools in the poorer neighbourhoods of Boston to mentor students with the college application process. Yohann says: 'I would never have got where I am and be who I am without my experiences at Moir. Despite being one of the top private schools in the world, it still has an almost family-like feel to it. There are so many opportunities to discover yourself and grow that students are able to mature and succeed far beyond their years.'

Steffan Paul is in his first year at Harvard, studying Biology. In his short time there, he has already joined two dance companies and a Community Service project. In the summer, he will be going to Vienna as part of the Harvard Study Abroad programme. Steffan feels his time here was crucial in preparing him for fresh challenges at university: 'Moir always pushed me to do more than I thought I could, and it is that mentality which is keeping me going in this competitive environment'.

RYAN WINS PLACE AT CAMBRIDGE

Congratulations to Ryan De Silva who has been offered a place at Churchill College, Cambridge to read Natural Sciences, concentrating on Physics.

Ryan gained 4A* grades in his A Levels last year and scored 100% in an astonishing twelve papers. He has been working at school this year, helping students with Maths and starting our new Robotics Club. Anyone who believes in fate will be happy to know that both Ryan's parents studied Science at Churchill College, Ryan was born in Cambridge and his first home was in Churchill.

Ryan says, 'To study at Cambridge has been a lifelong dream. With facilities like the world-famous Cavendish Laboratories and alumni ranging from Isaac Newton to Ernest Rutherford and Stephen Hawking, Cambridge is the ideal place to study Physics.'



JACK & HIS AMAZING MULTI-COLOURLED BEANSTALK



The Junior School put on another fun-filled and highly entertaining play at the Russian Cultural Centre at the start of March. Hussain Jafferjee starred as the intellectually challenged hero, who tries to save his family by selling their talking cow, brilliantly played by Pippa Fox in an equally brilliant costume, for some magic beans. The beans, of course, grow into a beanstalk that takes him to the castle of the scary (Scottish) giant to try to find the elusive goose that lays golden eggs.

Vishuan Ravi Chandran was hilarious as the evil Baron Smug, along with his henchmen Kutt and Thrusst, while Avlok Wignaraja had the audience in fits of laughter whenever he set foot on stage as the vet, with his livewire performance. Special mention should be made of Uma Sandrasagra who was again superb as the post-modern narrator and held the whole play together. The biggest cheer of the night, however, was rightly reserved for the beanstalk itself when it made its dramatic appearance!

KHARESMA TOPS CHARTS IN INDIA

As well as starring in 'Footloose' last year and winning this year's Best Solo Singer trophy at Inter House Music, Kharesma Ravichandran has been topping the charts for Tamil songs in India.



Kharesma has already sung songs for three Tamil movies and is currently working on a fourth, as well as singing in adverts. Her first song, Yaen Ennai, from the film Yennai Arindhaal, reached No. 1 in the iTunes India chart. Her biggest hit so far, Kadhal Cricket, from the 2015 movie Thani Oruvan, has almost 4 million views on YouTube and was the Number One Tamil song on radio stations in South India. At the end of last year she sung Party with the Pei, the promotional song for Aranmanai 2, which was No. 1 in the iTunes India chart for 9 weeks.

Kharesma is due to take her Grade 8 Singing examination this year, having received Distinction in Grade 7 when she was only 13. After attending stage school when she was living in England, she is also a veteran of over twenty major shows and productions, as well as appearing in the CBBC series Numberjacks. Kharesma is currently revising hard for her IGCSE exams. After A Level, she plans to study criminal law, but hopes to keep singing as well.

