

SPORTS TRIP TO MALAYSIA



Our Football and Basketball teams went on their first ever overseas tour in April, playing a series of matches against different teams in Malaysia. The players had the opportunity to use world-class facilities and play in some of the top stadiums in Kuala Lumpur. As well as practising and playing matches, the boys also had time for sightseeing and shopping in Kuala Lumpur. They visited the Petronas Twin Towers, the tallest buildings in the world from 1998 to 2004, enjoyed a day on the water slides and rides at Sunway Lagoon, and even managed to escape the heat and bustle of the city to go to the hill resort of Genting Highlands.

The Football team opened their account with a 2-1 victory over the El Roi Football Academy. Their second game was the much anticipated contest with the new Chelsea Soccer School in Malaysia, on their bright blue artificial pitch,

which saw our team earn a hard-fought 1-1 draw. The tour ended for the footballers with a mini tournament against teams from the Little League Academy, in which we finished a respectable 2nd.

The Basketball team lost their first two games against two of Malaysia's top teams, Rad Basketball Club and Ox Sports Club, the current national champions. They were able to end the tour on a high note, however, with a thrilling 46-44 victory against the Airkit Active Basketball Academy in the MABA (Malaysia Basketball Association) stadium.

All the players learnt a huge lot from the experience, as well as growing closer as teams. After such a successful first trip, we hope to organise regular tours for all our sports teams in future.



JUNIOR SCHOOL ART EXHIBITION



This year's Junior School Art Exhibition – 'Art Across The World' – was again held in the beautiful surroundings of the Barefoot Gallery. As well as speaking about the therapeutic power of Art, the Chief Guest Jayantha Silva

presented Mrs. Shearer with a portrait of Mrs. Moir. The gallery was so impressed by the colour, creativity and vitality of the children's paintings that it asked for the exhibition to be kept up for an extra four days.



MIDDLE SCHOOL LEADERSHIP CAMP



In April, 36 students from Form 3 and 4 went to Sanctuary House campsite, Pamanugama, for a leadership camp. Activities included a low ropes course, archery, air rifle shooting, kayaking and beach games, while students also learned how to pitch tents and light a fire. The focus of the activities were teamwork and leadership. Students were then able to reflect on what they learned about these topics through group presentations.

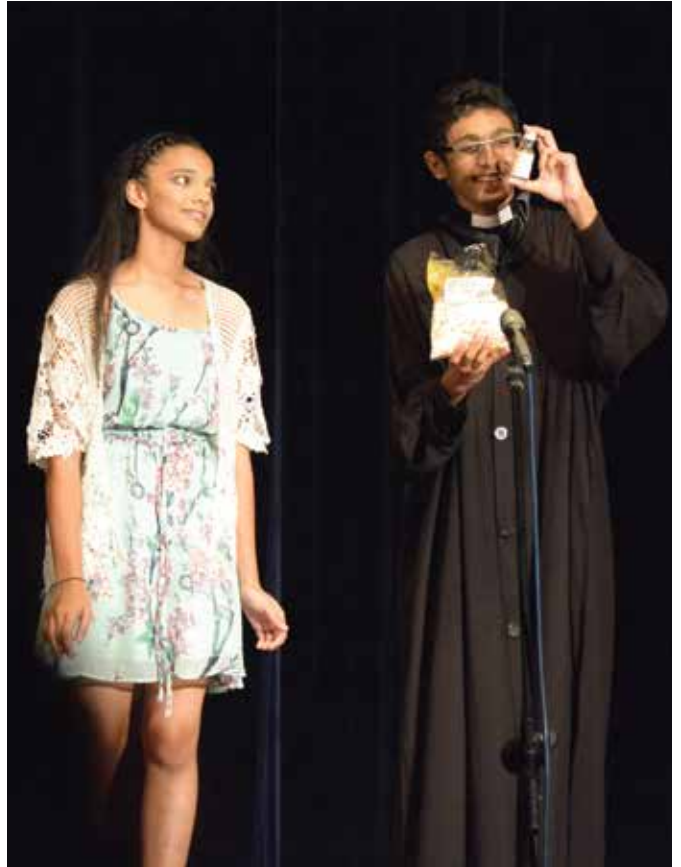
SENIOR SCHOOL CELEBRATES SHAKESPEARE



Senior School students have marked the 400th anniversary of the death of William Shakespeare in 1616 with a range of activities over the past year. Last May, a group of students went to watch The Globe Theatre's production of Hamlet on its visit to Sri Lanka, as part of its 2-year tour of every country in the world to celebrate the anniversary. The tour played to over 100,000 spectators in 197 countries, including Palestine, Afghanistan and a Syrian refugee camp in Jordan, and held special performances at 'The Jungle' refugee camp in Calais, the UN in New York and for Barack Obama at The Globe on his recent visit to London. This May, students were taken to watch The Merchant of Venice as part of the Shakespeare in the Park festival in the Viharamahadevi open air theatre. The week before, Nicole Haddon had starred as Titania in A Midsummer Night's Dream in the same festival. Excerpts from this production will also be staged at the British High Commission's celebrations of The Queen's 90th birthday.

The English Department also organised Shakespeare Week in Assembly earlier in the year. Activities included quizzes on films based on Shakespeare plays and famous Shakespearean quotes. The week finished with a recreation of an Elizabethan theatrical experience, including considerable audience participation.

Shakespeare was also the theme of this year's Inter House Drama competition, with the houses presenting modern versions of the plays. Hillary won for their entertaining production of 'Romeo, You Idiot' featuring a surfer Romeo and gangsters as the Montagues and Capulets. Felix Deemer won Best Actor for his downbeat portrayal of the eponymous idiot, while Dilani Abeyratne was selected as Best Actress for her performance as Lady Macbeth in Columbus' version of Macbeth. The Best Supporting Actor and Actress awards went to Anuk Gunasekara and Nashmoon Sheena for their entertaining cameos in the highly unshakespearean roles of a police officer and a Sri Lankan maid.



Finally, students have continued to study Shakespeare as part of their normal English curriculum. Having been introduced to Shakespeare in Junior 5 through a project on Macbeth, students read Othello in Form 3 and study Romeo and Juliet at IGCSE. At A Level, the current Upper 6th did A Merchant of Venice while the Lower 6th are doing Hamlet.



Nur Shaman's picture that was selected for the European Union Delegation to Sri Lanka's 2017 calendar.

UNIVERSITY PLACES



Congratulations to all our students who have been offered places at top world universities for next academic year.

Nine of the current Upper 6th have been offered places at leading universities in the UK, including UCL, LSE, Edinburgh, Manchester, Bristol and Warwick, which are all ranked in the top 50 universities in the world. In addition, three of last year's class have already accepted confirmed places. Arts courses are especially popular this year. Three students are planning to study Law: Mira Gunawansa, who hopes to go to Warwick; Yasmin Hannan, who has an offer from Manchester; and Emily Hayward at Sussex. Ashfath Ifham has accepted an offer from the London School of Economics to study Economics and Governance, Saira Meyler for PPE at Leeds and Tripti Mathews for Geography at Durham. Katie Renker will also become our first ever student to study Music.

Many of our students continue to receive scholarships to enable them to attend top universities. In the US, this includes Urshella Hisham, our 6th student at

Harvard in 9 years, and Takaharu Higuchi, who will be going to Denison University, a leading liberal arts college. Maahir Ur Rahman has been given a full scholarship at NYU Abu Dhabi, becoming our 8th scholar there in only 5 years. Hong Kong remains a popular choice for our students as well. Rakulan Sothinnan and Dulanga Jaywardene have both been offered full scholarships to study Engineering: Rakulan at HKU and Dulanga at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Dulanga will be joined at CUHK by Seonju Lee.

As ever, our students will be travelling all over the world. Three of last year's class have already started courses in Australia, while Ahmed Nomani will study Biomedical Engineering at McGill University, the top rated university in Canada, ranked 24th in the world.

Winning a place at a top university fulfills a life-long dream for all our students, but no one's story is as heart-warming as Xingyi Wu's. Xingyi's ambition has always been to go to university in Japan, due to her interest in the country and its culture, and she even learnt Japanese on her own to make this dream possible. She has now been offered a scholarship at Kyushu, one of Japan's National Seven universities.