

## NUS SCIENCE CAMP

As soon as Founders' Day finished, 24 Form 5 and Lower 6th students left straight for the airport to travel to Singapore for the Science Camp hosted by the National University of Singapore. This was the 4th time our students had attended the camp, which has become a regular biennial trip. In total, there were 150 students there from 14 countries. The students gained exposure to the latest research in their field and practised using new equipment in some of the most

modern laboratories in the world, as well as experiencing what university life will be like by staying in the university hostel.

The programme included lectures by NUS Professors on topics including nanotechnology as well as workshops on molecular gastronomy and using DNA in forensic science. They also learned how to make a lens and turn their smartphones into a microscope.

## INTERNSHIPS



This year saw our internship programme go international, with students having the opportunity to do work experience in eight countries on three continents.

Ahmed Ismail was given the chance to work at the United Nations in New York for one month, with the delegation of the Maldives. He was fortunate to be there during the 70th session of the General Assembly and spent his time shadowing diplomats and helping to write speeches.

Several other students interested in international relations, politics and social policy were also able to do internships with their governments. Virul Abeygunawardane spent three weeks at the Sri Lankan High Commission in London, helping to deal with the aftermath of Brexit and Theresa May becoming Prime Minister, as well as playing some cricket for the embassy team. Both Lu u Lua Mohamed and Nur Shamun worked in government ministries in Malé: Lu u Lua in the Foreign Ministry for four weeks, organising meetings and writing letters, and Nur in the Climate Change Department of the Ministry of Environment and Energy on its 'Strengthening Low Carbon Energy Island Strategies' project. Arpana Giritharan worked for ten days at the Consultation Task Force on Reconciliation Mechanisms, which is part of the process that is leading up to the establishment of an Office of Missing Persons. As well as attending the meetings, her role involved research and organising focus groups.

Anjali Attygalle was given a wonderful opportunity to work in the Department of Entomology at the University of California, Berkeley, one of the top universities in the world. She assisted with research on the feeding patterns of Bombardier beetles. In a similar field, Shenali Wijesinghe worked at Bureau Veritas for one week, testing clothes for PH levels and potentially carcinogenic formaldehyde, while both both Vinati Molligoda and Prashan Jayawardena worked at Genetech in Colombo. Ijas Ahamed was able to pursue his interest in engineering by working for one month for the Central Engineering Consultancy Bureau on a construction site in Ampara.

Creative industries remain very popular with our students. Mohamed Ismail worked at an architects' studio in Singapore on a project to renovate a community centre. Burhanuddin Jafferjee worked for 3 weeks in advertising, at Grant McCann Erickson. Sharanja De Zoysa pursued her interest in architecture and interior design by working with Murad Ismail and Annika Fernando, assisting on a house in Galle and hotel in Balapitiya. Sophia Sansoni did work experience at the LT (or Leisure Times), including writing articles on the frescoes at



Sigiriya and the Ajanta Caves, and on handloom. Akash Gnanam's interests lie in web design and graphics so he worked at 3CS creating web templates and Facebook ads, and editing photos. In a similar area, Anjali Mathews drew pictures to use in videos for well-known Sri Lankan website Yamu, and Jithvan Ariyaratne redesigned the website for Sarvodaya.

Felix Deemer spent 5 weeks in Beijing, working at the Stanford University Center at Beijing University and living with a Chinese family. He was taken to work on his first day by a former teacher at the university who had also been his grandfather's Chinese teacher. Felix has been learning Chinese for several years and lived with the family of the Deemers' former driver who only spoke Chinese, so he had no option but to speak Chinese all the time. Felix spent much of his time working with Stanford's Asian Liver Center on an awareness campaign for World Hepatitis Day including celebrities like Jackie Chan. One in ten Chinese have Hepatitis B, which is a major cause of liver cancer.

Tarik Conrad and Amaan Kulatunga did work experience at the Four Seasons in the Maldives for four weeks, splitting their time between the kitchen and housekeeping. As well as a lot of hard work, they were able to enjoy many of the activities offered by the hotel on their days off, such as diving and visiting other islands, as well as play in some very competitive inter-hotel volleyball games. After experiencing how some guests treat hotel staff, they are sure to treat employees with greater respect next time they stay in a hotel.

As well as internships, many of our students also made a positive contribution to their local community by volunteering with charities and NGOs. Min Suk Son worked with The Lost Ministry for one month, teaching English and Maths to children aged 5 to 15 who had been abandoned by their parents or whose parents were in prison. Won Jae Choi worked for four weeks at the Korean Federation of Environmental Movement, which is part of Friends of the Earth, in Seoul. He also took part in protests against Oxy, a subsidiary of Reckitt Benckiser, whose dehumidifier disinfectant has been blamed for over 100 deaths in South Korea. Vinati Molligoda helped out at NEST, a community-based mental health organisation, which included working with children at The National Institute of Mental Health, Angoda; the Half Way Home in Mulleriyawa and Lady Ridgeway Hospital. Ammaar Careem volunteered at The Chitra Lane School of the Special Child for three weeks, helping the teachers with children aged 10 to 16. Ramudi Samarasekera assisted at Chibby's Friends / House of Hope, an NGO that helps under-privileged children with chronic diseases or who need expensive surgery. Ramudi helped with fundraising for Project Lifeline, which provides nutritional support to HIV-positive children.



SEPTEMBER 2016

ELIZABETH MOIR SCHOOL

## CONGRATULATIONS! MOIR RANKED TOP IN THE WORLD



Congratulations to our IGCSE class who have obtained the best IGCSE results of any international school in the world. This comes the year after our Upper 6th class gained the best ever A Level results by an international school.

In total, 64% of all papers were graded A\*, which is outstanding, and virtually every paper (96%) A\* - B. This means that every student in the class achieved good grades: 38 out of 41 achieved at least one A\* grade, and all at least one A grade.

Lady Doris Butterworth, the former Deputy Chair of the Independent Schools Council in the UK, visited the school last term. Afterwards, she wrote to Mrs. Moir and said: "You and your staff clearly inculcate a 'love of learning' which is the first step to academic (and other) success."

29 students obtained 7 or more A and A\*, including an incredible 17 who will win Edexcel awards for 7 or more A\* grades. This includes Aanya Gunwansa with 11 A\*, the best ever performance by one of our students, Naveen Kulasinghe with 10 A\*, as well as an A at AS Music, and Arpana Giritharan, who also obtained 10 A\*. Six other students all gained 9 A\*s: Ali Anver, Arpana Giritharan, Amjad Hamza, Methin Lokumannage, Piya Rajendra, Anirudh Sathian and Maya Weerasinghe. No school in Sri Lanka has ever had more students winning Edexcel Awards for 9 or more A\* grades than this, despite most having far more candidates.

Our new IGCSE class has a hard act to follow this year, but have already made a great start. Six students took Art a year early and all six achieved A\* grades.

Many of our students scored above 90% in several of their subjects. Aanya Gunawansa and Piya Rajendra both

scored 99% in History, with Aanya also obtaining 95% in English Language; Luke Chung scored 99% in Maths and Shiarah Didi 94% in Art. We expect several students to be competing for World Prizes, when these are announced later in the term.

Aanya Gunawansa	11 A*
Arpana Giritharan	10 A*
Naveen Kulasingha	10 A*
Ali Anver	9 A* 1 A
Methin Lokumannage	9 A* 1 A
Piya Rajendra	9 A* 1 A
Anirudh Sathian	9 A* 1 A
Amjad Hamza	9 A*
Maya Weerasinghe	9 A*
Anjali Mathews	8 A* 2 A
Syed Abdul Samad	8 A* 2 A
Tharushika Mudalige	8 A* 1 A 1 B
Amaan Kulatunga	8 A* 1 A
Akash Gnanam	7 A* 2 A 1 B
Chamathka De Silva	7 A* 1 A
Anan Weerasinghe	7 A* 1 A
Tamaia Dandeniya	7 A* 1 A
Arshad Dahlan	6 A* 4 A
Laisha Fahud	6 A* 4 A
Bushra Lantra	6 A* 2 A
Genukssha Sivaram	6 A* 2 A
Areeb Thassim	5 A* 4 A
Calvin Karunaratne	5 A* 3 A 1 B
Ahamed Saheed	5 A* 3 A 1 B
Sadia Ashraff	4 A* 4 A
Luke Chung	4 A* 4 A
Tiffany Johnpulle	4 A* 4 A
Movin Seneviratne	4 A* 3 A 2 B
Manal Mushtag	3 A* 6 A



	School	% A*
	Elizabeth Moir School	64%
1	Dhirubhai Ambani International School, Mumbai	61%
2	Harrow International School, Hong Kong	60%
3	The International School Bangalore	55%
4	The English School, Nicosia	46%
5	UK Average	6.6%
	UK Independent Schools Average	32.9%

Although unable to match last year's record results, our A Level class also performed extremely well. An impressive 33% of papers were marked A or A\* and well over 90% A\* - C, helping almost all the students to go to their first

choice university. Both Urshella Hisham and Rumaana Yusry achieved an outstanding overall average of 93% across all their 24 papers, with Harvard-bound Urshella scoring 98% in Chemistry.

## THE QUEEN'S COMMONWEALTH ESSAY COMPETITION



Congratulations to our Junior and Senior School students on winning a record number of awards in the prestigious Commonwealth Essay Competition. A total of 24 students won awards, including Umaama Hussain and Zara Anwer who both won Gold Awards.

### SENIOR (14-18 YEARS)

Gold Award ● Zahra Anwer  
 Silver Awards ● Kaavya Gnanam  
 Bronze Awards ● Shakuntala Fernandopulle, Ishra Ibrahim, Kaitlin Manuelpillai

### JUNIOR (UNDER 14 YEARS)

Gold Award ● Umaama Hussain  
 Silver Awards ● Anika Dilshard, Lana Jaleel, Alwan Mausoom, Anjalie Perera, Ricardo Seneviratne, Jun Shamun, Jack Shearer  
 Bronze Awards ● Siena Godfrey, Upekha Gunawansa, Senuka Jayasekara, Hithara Kuruwita, Maryam Latheef, Tara Mylvaganam, Annika Perera, Raahil Rajaratnam, Uma Sandrasagra, Anna Shearer, Dineth Wijayawardana

## FOUNDERS' DAY

Elizabeth Moir School's 20th Founders' Day Prize Giving began with a superb routine by our Junior Choir. In her speech, Mrs. Moir focused on the multi-national nature of the school community and how fortunate our students are to come to a school with students and teachers from all over the world. The school has had students from over 70 countries on every continent. There was also a moving tribute to two of the school's most long-standing teachers, Mr. ZAM Mahroof and Miss Dharmaja Balasubramaniam, who were leaving after a combined total of 35 years at the school. The evening ended on a high note with a superb Disney medley by the Senior Choir, which ended with the Junior Choir joining in for the finale of songs from The Lion King.



### Congratulations to the new Head Prefects appointed for 2016-2017:

Captain of School	Khalid Fazlee
Senior School Head Prefects	Lu u Lua Mohamed Sikhandi Thiagarajah
Junior School Head Prefect	Anna Shearer
Junior School Deputy Head Prefect	Tienn Kapilasena



## CLIMBING MOUNT EVEREST



The Junior School was privileged to have Jayanthi Kuru-Utumpala and Johann Peiris come to speak in Assembly in June, just three weeks after Jayanthi had become the first Sri Lankan to reach the summit of Mount Everest. She is only the fourth woman to become the first person in their country to climb Everest. Jayanthi and Johann also visited the Senior School in September. At both schools, they talked about their historic trip and showed the children some of the equipment, showing the students it is possible to achieve any dream with sufficient determination and commitment.

Although Jayanthi is the first Sri Lankan to climb Everest, one of the early Everest pioneers, Eric Shipton, was also born in Sri Lanka, the son of a British planter. Shipton led the missions in 1935 and 1951 that preceded Edmund Hillary reaching the summit in 1953.



## 31 STUDENTS PASS CHINESE EXAM



Congratulations to all our Form 1, 2 and 3 students who passed Level 1 of the Youth Chinese Test (YCT) at the end of last term, gaining a formal qualification in Chinese, after their first year studying the language. The YCT is the official test of Chinese language proficiency administered by the Confucius Institute and Hanban (the Chinese National Office for Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language). Congratulations to Nashmoon Sheena who earned the highest mark, 190 out of 200, and Eleanora Deemer and Ruya Hameed who both scored 188, well above the pass mark of 120. Students moving in to Form 2 and 3 will take YCT 2 this year.

Four of our students also took part in the 9th Chinese Bridge at the start of the holidays, a Chinese proficiency competition organised by Hanban and held at BMICH. Over 50,000 students from all over the world entered the competition, with the winners of the preliminary rounds travelling to China for the finals. Anishka Fernandopulle, Malaika Sequeira, Amber Tappin and Samantha Tappin sang a Chinese song, Xin Yuan, which means 'wish'.

## PARIS TRIP

14 students from Forms 2 to 5, accompanied by two teachers, travelled to France in July to spend one week in Paris. This was the second time we had taken students to Paris and the trip's popularity means that it will certainly become a regular event.

This year, as well as visiting the main sites in Paris – from Le Louvre and La Tour Eiffel to Disneyland – they also went on a trip out of Paris, to a beach in Normandy. The students had a picnic on the beach but found the English Channel a lot colder than the Indian Ocean! In Paris, the students enjoyed practising their French and learning about French culture - especially the food.

